CCT

Columbia College Today

Fall 2024

CHEERS TO FRONTIERS!
CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF SCIENCE IN THE CORE

CREATIVE COMPOSITIONS
PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING SOUND ARTIST ELLEN REID '05 DEFIES GENRES

AIN'T IT GRAND?
KEVIN FEDARKO '88 TAKES A WALK IN THE PARK

JOURNALIST IMARA JONES '94 IS TELLING TRANS STORIES TO SAVE TRANS LIVES

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JORG MEYER

Within the Family

Diving Into a New School Year

EILEEN BARROSO

NSOP volunteers at Convocation.

It is surprisingly easy in summer to forget what life on campus feels like. The Spring semester ends, students disperse. Soon afterward follow many faculty members and staff, off at various times for vacation in less urban locales. Campus isn't empty, but it becomes an almost bucolic version of itself. So, *this* is what the Steps look like when they aren't covered with people. The lawns seem greener. Everything is quiet.

Then, near August's end, come the cheers heard round the city.

These are the cries of the New Student Orientation Program (NSOP), the joyful and endlessly energetic band of students who each year welcome Columbia College and Columbia Engineering's newest classes during Move-In Weekend and Convocation. They deliver a contact high that can be seen in the faces of first-years and transfers, in the families clad in newly purchased Columbia gear, in just about anyone watching who for a few minutes remembers what it's like to be in freshman shoes and meet a friendly face. This year, the NSOP-ers wore bright blue shirts that bore the Orientation theme: "Dive In."

And so, with a bracing splash, here we are: Fall 2024.

Our cover story features the electrifying Imara Jones '94, a journalist and the founder of TransLash, a media nonprofit dedicated to reporting on the transgender community. Jones was one of *TIME*'s 100 most influential people last year, and her work is especially vital in light of the increasing assaults on trans rights. She is clear in her insistence that others see the transgender community in the fullness of their humanity — a message made more powerful by Jones' openness to putting her own story front and center as well.

Elsewhere, we mark the 20th anniversary of Frontiers of Science. The newest entry to the Core Curriculum has a riveting origin story; first-years of the last two decades have renowned astronomy professor David J. Helfand to thank for his tenacity in getting the course established. And in keeping with its name, we share how Frontiers is firmly entrenched in the present, ensuring that today's students are on top of the latest scientific issues and innovations. We also catch composer and sound artist Ellen Reid '05 en route to a busy creative season in Amsterdam, including the world premiere of her opera *The Shell Trial*. The prolific and protean Reid, who won a Pulitzer Prize in 2019, has a slate of significant works being performed this fall in Los Angeles and New York.

Finally, we feature the winning submission in the Undergraduate Community Initiative Essay Contest. The initiative was launched in January to deepen students' understanding of and commitment to three foundational values: respect, belonging and service. In turn, the contest was an opportunity for students to consider those values and describe a time when one of them made a difference in their lives. Emma Shen '26's poignant essay speaks to the importance of being there for one another through the simple act of listening — just listening — and in so doing, reminds us to do the same.

We hear you, Emma, and we carry your wise words into the semester. We wish everyone the best — and welcome to the Class of 2028!

Alexis Boncy

Alexis Boncy SOA'11
Editor-in-Chief

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the Big Picture

Written in Stone

The tiny owl tucked into the folds of *Alma Mater*'s robe is a famous sculptural symbol of wisdom; a closer look at other campus stonework yields additional insights. Here are six particularly inspiring inscriptions on the Morningside Heights campus.

For more details, see bit.ly/4cLcS5o.

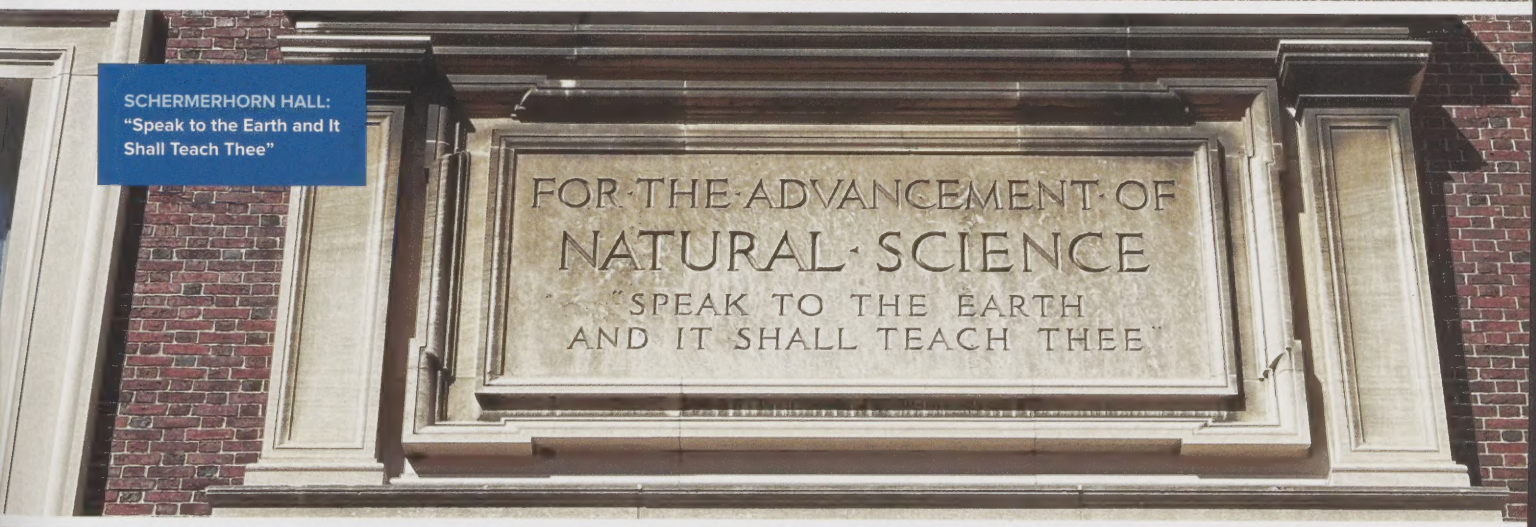
PHOTOGRAPHS BY KELLY MOFFITT-HAWASLY

WESTERN FLAGPOLE: "Love/Cherish/Defend It"

SOUTHERN COLLEGE WALK PYLON: "Hic Labor, Haec Quies" ("Letters should be the employment of our serious hours as well as our hours of leisure.")

ST. PAUL'S CHAPEL: "In Lumine Tuo Videbimus Lumen" ("In your light we see the light.")

SUNDIAL: "Horam Expecta Veniet" ("Wait for the hour and it will come.")



SCHERMERHORN HALL: "Speak to the Earth and It Shall Teach Thee"

KENT HALL: "Ius Est Ars Boni Et Aequi" ("The law is the art of goodness and equity.")

Message from the Dean

Advancing the Cause of Our Collective Humanity

On Aug. 25, I addressed the incoming Class of 2028. What follows is an excerpt of my speech, urging students to embrace curiosity, humility and respect as they join the College community.

To the Class of 2028, parents, family and friends: I'm honored to welcome you on behalf of Columbia College. Tonight — in this moment, and in this company — is an opportunity for you to reflect on who you are and all the things you carry with you to this new beginning.

I want you to hold in mind not just your accomplishments and academic aspirations, but also your passions, your humor, your creativity, your fear and anxieties, and hopes for the future — even, perhaps, a few regrets from your past; the entirety of the life that only you will ever truly know.

Whatever you hold true, and however you define yourself, this campus and this community is now your place — your home. Each of you is integral to it. The things you carry are singularly yours even as they are essential to the *us* that is becoming. An *us* that is strengthened by the opportunity to learn from each other.

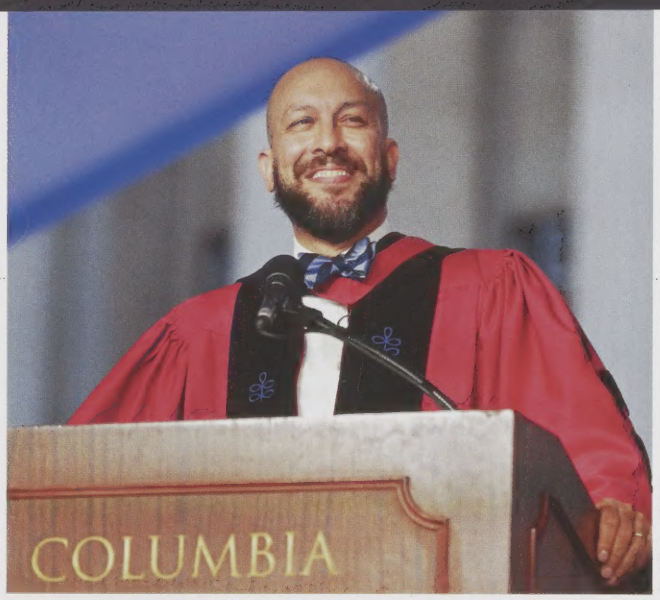
When I headed off to college I had an ambitious set of personal and professional goals for myself; but I also carried with me a set of ideas about race and religion that had been formed while growing up in and around Boston. Before I could name them clearly, those ideas were challenged as soon as I landed on campus in Tulsa, Okla. — what was then, ostensibly, a foreign country to me.

Those experiences, over time, bloomed into a series of questions that stayed with me after college, and on a circuitous path through graduate school that eventually led to Columbia; questions that continue to enliven an abiding passion for teaching and learning.

I don't share any of this to advocate for a life in academia but rather as a tangible reminder to follow those sparks of curiosity when they ignite inside you. Hold onto that curiosity. Take the risks attendant to following where it leads. And share it with us during your time here.

While here, you may come across the work of physics and mathematics professor Brian Greene, who lectures in Frontiers of Science in the Core Curriculum. His writing on the nature of the universe offers profound, yet basic, insights. He reminds us that, and I quote: "The boldness of asking deep questions may require unforeseen flexibility if we are to accept the answers."

As a community, Columbia is in the midst of a season of grappling with deep questions. Questions about war and conflict, the privileges and burdens of free expression and its limits, and about our shared humanity. Questions about the nature and purpose of the University itself, our obligations to each other in this context, and about the hard work it takes to ensure that ours is a campus in which every Columbian — faculty, students, staff, irrespective of where one falls across the lines of identity or ideology — is both fully welcomed and able to pursue their work free of harassment or discrimination.



EILEEN BARROSO

The kind of flexibility that Professor Greene encourages is integral to that work, and it brings us to my second thought: cultivate humility.

To succeed at Columbia takes a particular skill set. It takes embracing an obligation to listen closely and carefully, and to prioritize the learning we came here to do. It takes seeking out, understanding and remaining in conversation with divergent ideas and points of view — particularly when it's uncomfortable. All of this requires humility.

The Core Curriculum is meant to be your training ground to cultivate these habits, which we strive to develop in our students. The questions you encounter, the views that challenge you, the ideas you explore will and should change your sense of yourself and the world. The true promise of the Core is found in the collective engagement it invites with differences of opinion, of viewpoint and of interpretation — that is, with each other. Fulfilling that promise requires humility.

Yes, we will ask much of you, not the least of which is this delicate dance between curiosity and humility.

All of this requires respect for yourself, for those around you and for the spaces and structures that make this exploration — this very community — possible.

As you look for your own answers, challenge yourself with some questions. Are you willing to disagree, and admit to being wrong? Are you willing to stand up, and to sit down and listen?

Every one of you deserves to be seen, heard and valued.

But just as that obligation is owed to you — you owe it to every single member of this community you are entering — the *us* that we are together.

I believe in you. I believe in this community: the curiosity that led each of us here; our capacity for humility …

It is my great privilege as dean to welcome each of you as we partner in this work — of learning, growing and advancing the cause of our collective humanity.

Josef Sorett
Dean of Columbia College
Vice President for Undergraduate Education
Professor of Religion and African American & African Diaspora Studies

Around the Quads

Dr. Katrina Armstrong Named Interim University President

JORG MEYER

Dr. Katrina Armstrong became interim University president on Aug. 14, succeeding President Minouche Shafik, who announced her resignation that same day. Armstrong is also CEO of Columbia's Irving Medical Center, which includes the Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons, the School of Nursing, the College of Dental Medicine and the Mailman School of Public Health. She has held that post since 2022.

In addition, Armstrong is executive VP for health and biomedical sciences for the University and the Harold and Margaret Hatch Professor of the University. She is an internationally recognized investigator in medical decision making, quality of care, and cancer prevention and outcomes, as well as an award-winning teacher and a practicing primary care physician.

In a letter to the community, Board of Trustees co-chairs David Greenwald LAW'83 and Claire Shipman '86, SIPA'94 called Armstrong "the right leader for this moment," and said that she "brings a truly exceptional skillset to our University and our current challenges. She is a medical leader who cares deeply about community and society — a scientist and a humanist."

Previously, Armstrong was chair of the Department of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and physician-in-chief at Harvard-affiliated Massachusetts General Hospital. She began her academic career at Penn, where across 17 years she held a series of leadership roles, including as director of research at the Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics, chief of general internal medicine and associate director of the Abramson Cancer Center. She earned a B.A. in architecture from Yale, then spent a year at the National Institutes of Health before beginning medical school at Johns Hopkins.

Bollinger To Be 2024 Hamilton Medal Honoree

The 2024 Alexander Hamilton Medal will go to President Emeritus Lee C. Bollinger, who led Columbia from 2002 to 2023, the longest tenure of an Ivy League president in the modern era.

The Hamilton Medal, the highest honor awarded to a member of the Columbia College community, recognizes distinguished service to the College and accomplishment in any field of endeavor. The 76th annual Alexander Hamilton Award Dinner will take place on Thursday, Nov. 21, in Low Rotunda.

During his two decades of leadership, Bollinger enacted a wide array of transformational academic initiatives to assure the University's future among the greatest institutions of higher learning in the world. Among these was creating Columbia's first new campus in nearly a century, in Manhattanville — a pioneering model designed for artistic creativity and local community engagement.

He also established the Mortimer B. Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute, the world's foremost neuroscience research center, and created the Columbia Climate School, the first of its kind in the nation. To leverage scholarly knowledge for solutions to global problems — what he described as the University's Fourth Purpose — Bollinger established Columbia World Projects and built a network of 11 Columbia Global Centers across four continents.

He led two of the most successful capital campaigns in the history of higher education and, throughout his presidency, continued to teach a popular undergraduate course on the First Amendment.

A prominent advocate for diversity in higher education, Bollinger led the seminal Supreme Court cases at the University of Michigan that first upheld the constitutional right of colleges and universities to consider race in admissions to build a more diverse student body.

During his tenure, Columbia substantially expanded financial aid for the College and Columbia Engineering, and achieved record levels of undergraduate applications, selectivity and diversity. Bollinger is the first Seth Low Professor of the University, a member of the Law School faculty and one of the nation's foremost First Amendment scholars, widely published on the centrality of free speech and press to a democratic society.

EILEEN BARROSO

New Deans for Three Schools

Three Columbia schools are welcoming new leadership during the 2024–25 academic year.

Daniel Adebe has been appointed dean of the Law School and the Lucy G. Moses Professor of Law. Prior to joining Columbia,

ANDREW COLLINGS

Daniel Adebe

Adebe spent six years as the vice provost for academic affairs and governance at Chicago; he was also deputy dean of its law school from 2016 to 2018. His scholarship focuses on the relationship between the constitutional law of U.S. foreign affairs and public international law.

Sarah Cole has been named dean of the School of the Arts, a role she had held in an interim capacity since last fall. Prior to that, since 2018, she had been dean of humanities in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences; she also was previously chair of the Department of English and Comparative Literature. Cole is an expert in literary modernism and teaches an array of topics in 19th- and 20th-century literature.

Sarah Cole

KATIE LENHART

Alexis Abramson

Alexis Abramson, an expert in sustainable energy technology and advanced energy research with extensive experience in academic administration, has been appointed dean of the Columbia Climate School. She is currently dean of the Thayer School of Engineering at Dartmouth and will begin at Columbia on Jan. 1.

Good as Gold!

Columbia fencing star **Jackie Dubrovich '16** made history in Paris on Aug. 1, helping the United States secure its first gold medal in an Olympic Fencing team competition; Dubrovich, a native of Maplewood, N.J., is also the first Columbia fencer to win Olympic gold. The women's foil squad, ranked Number 2 in the world, defeated top-seeded Italy 45–39 to secure the top spot on the podium. Left to right: Dubrovich, Maia Mei Weintraub, Lauren Scrubbs and Lee Kiefer.

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Did*You*Know?

Columbia's Orchestra Is the Oldest Continually Operating University Orchestra in the United States

COURTESY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Composer and pianist Edward MacDowell founded the Columbia University Orchestra in 1896 and, although it has undergone several name changes (to the Columbia University Philharmonic Society and the Students' Orchestra, most notably), it remains in operation. The CUO's principal mission is to expose student musicians to the highest level of orchestral repertoire; members rehearse once a week and occasionally travel for performances across the United States.

Between Facts and Wonder: Frontiers of Science

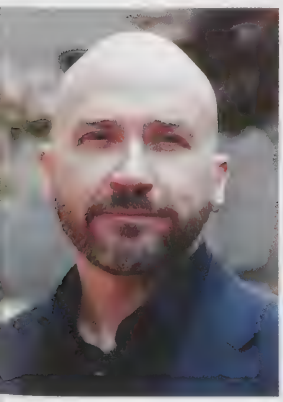
By Larry Jackson

At first glance, Frontiers of Science, which Columbia College students are required to take in their first year, seems very different from the other courses in the Core Curriculum.

First, there is its age. Launched in 2004, Frontiers is not only the youngest course in the Core, but also the only requirement added to the curriculum in this century.

Then, there is its content. As the name suggests, there are no ancient stories or philosophical texts in Frontiers, no swelling crescendos or brooding colors on canvas — only science.

Finally, there is its format. Each Monday morning during the semester, hundreds of students make their way up Broadway to Cowin Auditorium at Teachers College to hear distinguished scientists such as Daphna Shohamy, Brian Greene, Ruben L. Gonzalez Jr. and David J. Helfand give awe-inspiring lectures on the latest developments in their fields.



EMMA ASHER

Core Curriculum director Larry Jackson

Frontiers might be a new course, but the idea of science in the Core Curriculum is not. Inspired by the success of Contemporary Civilization, the College began to expand the Core in the 1930s, adding the two-year sequence that would become Literature Humanities, Music Humanities and Art Humanities. But before creating those courses, the College began experimenting with a two-year elective sequence — Science A and B — which was modeled on CC, then a two-year social science course. By 1941, it was obvious that the seven-year experiment with science in the Core had failed, and the College dropped the sequence altogether, just as the United States was about to enter WWII.

The military, relying on Columbia to train many of its students to be officers, pressured the College to teach science in the Core, but to no effect. During the Cold War, with the U.S. competing with the Soviets for dominance in military and space technologies, sociologist Daniel Bell proposed an overhaul of the Core that would add courses in biology, physics, mathematics and computer science. Again, nothing changed. As the 20th century was winding down, and climate change and the disruptions of the nascent digital age began to eclipse the Cold War as pressing concerns, scholars at a 1987 conference celebrating Lit Hum's 50th anniversary again asked why the sciences were not part of the Core.

The creation of Frontiers of Science 17 years later followed more failed experiments and worries that the course would change the character of the Core altogether. But it is not as different from its curricular counterparts as it might seem. Like other Core courses, Frontiers is interdisciplinary, with four units representing different fields: Mind and Brain, Physics and Reality, Molecules and Life, and Climate and Us. Each unit uses the latest research in these areas to grapple with current problems such as climate change and disease prevention. But amidst the latest discoveries in these fields, students also learn about a history of inquiry that, while more modern than many of the works they encounter in other Core courses, is no less formidable. Names like

Sociologist Daniel Bell

Brenda Milner, Suzanne Corkin, I.I. Rabi and Albert Einstein carry a weight in Frontiers analogous to that of Homer in Lit Hum or Plato in CC.

While Frontiers is unique in having a lecture component, it also includes a weekly seminar led by talented educators who teach not only within their areas of expertise, but also in the adjacent subjects that the course covers. These instructors' aim is not to cram information into the minds of passive listeners, but to engage active learners in discussions that will help them form the habits of mind used by scientists. Students thus practice reading scientific studies, assessing research and making judgments based on evidence — the kind of skills needed to be engaged citizens in a modern society.

It is this civic dimension of Frontiers that makes the course so at home within the Core Curriculum. In an age of fake news, alternative facts and disinformation campaigns, the ability to distinguish between truths and falsehoods makes us less prone to the manipulations of power and forges a bond of social trust among citizens that allows for productive disagreement.

But Frontiers of Science doesn't simply equip students to discern between noble facts and malicious falsehoods. When students confront the mysteries of the cosmos or the enigmas of the human brain, they begin to appreciate how little we know about the universe and ourselves. Frontiers thus instills in students an intellectual humility and a sense of wonder that can inspire inquiry, and open their minds to the perspectives of others.

Read more about Frontiers in the feature "Twenty Years of Frontiers" on page 16.

In Memoriam: Tsung-Dao Lee, University Professor Emeritus and Nobel Prize Winner in Physics

University Professor Emeritus Tsung-Dao "T.D." Lee, who in 1957 was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics, died on Aug. 4, 2024, in San Francisco. He was 97.

Lee was barely 31 when he won the Nobel, the second-youngest scientist to receive the honor; his collaborator Chen Ning Yang was a co-recipient. Robert Oppenheimer once praised Lee as one of the most brilliant theoretical physicists of the time, whose work showed "remarkable freshness, versatility and style."

EILEEN BARROSO

A world-renowned scientist, educator and longtime member of Columbia's Department of Physics, Lee was among the leading physicists of his generation, a towering figure who expanded the understanding of the laws of physics and, in particular, the interactions among the subatomic particles out of which our universe is constructed.

Lee was born on Nov. 24, 1926, in Shanghai, the third of six children; he said he grew up "in a family of learning." His father was a merchant in the chemical industry, and his mother was a homemaker who enjoyed finding books to add to the family library. Lee was in high school when war broke out between China and Japan, forcing him to abandon his studies; in 1943, despite not having a high school diploma, Lee was admitted to National Chekiang University (now Zhejiang University). He started as a student in chemical engineering and shifted to physics when his professors discovered his talent in that field.

The continuing war with Japan forced Lee in 1945 to switch to National Southwestern Associated University in Kunming, where his future collaborator Yang had also studied. While there he was nominated for a Chinese government fellowship to study in the United States. By 1946, Lee was at the University of Chicago, studying under Enrico Fermi, another legendary Columbian and Nobel winner. Lee earned a Ph.D. in 1950 with a dissertation on the hydrogen content of white dwarf stars.

Following stints at Princeton, UC Berkeley and the Yerkes Observatory in Wisconsin, Lee joined Columbia as an assistant professor in 1953. He was named full professor three years later, the youngest person at the time to receive tenure at Columbia. He taught at Columbia until his retirement at 84 in 2011 as a University Professor and the Enrico Fermi Professor of Physics.

As a physicist, Lee is best known for his and Yang's discoveries related to the law of conservation of parity, then a widely accepted theory that suggested that two physical systems that are mirror images of each other must behave in the same way.

In 1956, Lee challenged the law, and called on Yang, whom he had worked with at Chicago. After reviewing all the studies and experiments involving the decay of specific particles called K mesons, the two were able to conclude that in nature, identical particles can in fact differ — in effect, some are right-handed and others are left-handed.

That fall, Lee and Yang published their theory in the journal *Physical Review.* A groundbreaking experiment by physicist Chien-Shiung Wu involving the decay of cobalt atoms was performed later that year, confirming that Lee and Yang were right. They were awarded the Nobel the following year.

Outside the University, Lee was founding director of the Riken-Brookhaven National Laboratory Center from 1997 to 2003. As a leading U.S. scientist, he was influential in initiating important large-scale projects; among the most significant was the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider, which provided some of the first evidence for the quark gluon plasma, a state of matter that dominated the universe a few microseconds after its creation.

Lee also helped usher in a new era of international collaboration in scientific research and education between the U.S. and China. He helped to establish important academic programs, including the first undergraduate school and the first postdoctoral educational program in China. He also created the China-U.S. Physics Examination and Application system, under which more than 900 of the top Chinese undergraduates in physics came to the U.S. for Ph.D. studies.

For his contributions to international cooperation in science research in the U.S., China, Japan and Italy, Lee was awarded some of those nations' highest distinctions. His name is affixed to two theorems, the Lee Model and the Kinoshita-Lee-Nauenberg theorem, and he also developed important theories on black holes and dark matter. He received the Albert Einstein Award in Science, the Galileo Galilei Medal and the G. Bude Medal, as well as honorary doctorates and titles from organizations around the world. A minor planet (3443 Leetsungdao) is named for him.

In 1950, Lee married Jeannette Hui-Chun Chin. She died in 1996. He is survived by his sons, James and Stephen; brother, Xuedao Li; sister, Yayun Li; seven grandchildren; and a great-grandson. Lee became a U.S. citizen in 1962.

— *Lisa Palladino*

EMMA ASHER

Mariam Jallow '25

Meet Mariam Jallow '25 (she/her), president of the 2024–25 Columbia College Student Council Executive Board. A history major from Portland, Ore., Jallow has been a member of CCSC all four years of college, serving as freshman class president, sophomore class president, VP of finance for the Executive Board and now president. CCSC organizes and funds campus life events, contributes to University policy changes and communicates with the student body on a host of issues; its members are elected to be representatives on CC students' behalf.

What is your favorite part about being involved with CCSC?

My favorite part is definitely seeing how impactful the work we do is. It's very gratifying to see students reap the benefits of things we've done, like the pass-fail options that we implemented during Covid-19 or making student life easier for FGLI [first-generation, low-income] students. It's nice to see friends and classmates benefit from our work.

What are some things you are looking forward to as CCSC president?

I'm looking forward to building community. I think a lot of students are very excited for the events we'll have, whether they're freshmen just coming to the College or seniors in their last year. A really popular event we're doing again is CC Takes on Slate, which is when we rent the Slate nightclub on Halloween night for all CC students. We're making it even bigger and better this year, so I'm really excited for that! We're also trying to make things easier for students in terms of housing, accommodations and dining, so I'm looking forward to the student services parts of the job as well. I also hope we're going to be able to integrate some of our events with alumni events in order to build community there.

What's been your favorite class at Columbia, and why?

"U.S. Intellectual History, 1865–Present," with Professor Casey Blake. I learned so much about the United States and I have such a better contextual understanding of how the world around me works thanks to that course.

What do you like to do outside of class and CCSC?

Whenever a professor recommends a talk or event that's happening on campus, I try to go. I want to fully take advantage of the college experience and be able to hear experts speak on all sorts of things.

How do you take advantage of being in New York City?

I make an effort to get off campus whenever I can. My friends and I have coined the term "CPM," which is "Central Park Moment." Whenever we feel like we've been on campus too long and it's a nice day, we'll text our group chats, "CPM today?" and we'll all go to Central Park. It's so nice to be able to just breathe in New York City.

“WE DESERVE HUMAN RIGHTS EQUAL TO EVERYONE ELSE”

JOURNALIST IMARA JONES ’94 IS TELLING TRANS STORIES TO SAVE TRANS LIVES

BY ALEXIS BONCY SOA’11

“People constantly try to refer to me as an activist when I don’t identify as one,” says Imara Jones ’94. Her statement stops short my note-taking. It’s April and we’re talking about what’s been most challenging in Jones’ trailblazing career; I both register her objection and mentally run it against my research, where I’ve indeed seen that word a lot. Jones can otherwise be described as a journalist, political analyst and one of *TIME*’s 100 most influential people for 2023. Notably, she is also the founder of TransLash, a media nonprofit dedicated to reporting about the transgender community.

Jones explains that people didn’t always take TransLash seriously as a news platform, especially in its early days. Dismissed her as an activist. She draws a bright line to clarify her point: “There are people who do that work,” she says. “It’s their job; they spend their career doing that. The people who run Planned Parenthood — those are professional people.” She pauses. “I just think people are so [not] used to trans issues being spoken about in a way that’s forthright that they think that’s activism. I really think that’s more of a reflection of where our society is on our issues than on me.”

Jones launched TransLash in 2018 with a docuseries chronicling her transition and life as a transgender person in America. In the six years since, she has steadily built it into a prolific, cross-platform source of news and nonfiction storytelling. Its mission: telling trans stories to save trans lives. The work takes many forms, including articles, personal essays and short films that highlight the joys and complexities of trans lives (one docuseries focuses on the power of trans artistic expression; another, the challenges of navigating body autonomy and other medical issues). Perhaps most prominent, however, are TransLash’s podcasts, including an eponymous biweekly series hosted by Jones, which garnered a GLAAD 2023 Outstanding Podcast Award.

Jones’ rising profile has largely followed step with her organization’s expansion. In 2022 she both received the Journalist of Distinction Award from the National Black Journalists Association — the first trans person to receive the honor — and was named one of Politico’s 40 power players at the intersection of race, politics and policy in the United States. Last year, in the *TIME* article highlighting Jones, artist and activist Tourmaline observed that Jones’ work “takes the media narrative beyond where it usually goes by cultivating our awareness of and desire for Black trans futures. … In a moment when anti-trans violence is on the rise and there are those seeking to legislate us out of existence, Imara’s work declares loudly and proudly not just that we get to have a future, that our aliveness deserves to extend beyond this moment — but also that it can be pleasure filled.”

Indeed, the urgency of Jones’ work has become even more acute as the number of anti-trans bills under consideration in the U.S. has reached new highs. It spiked from 174 to 600 between 2022 and 2023, according to the Trans Legislation Tracker website, and this year is on pace to surpass that number. One of the more prominent flash points has been the push to ban gender-affirming care — for example, blocking hormone therapies for kids under 18, and imposing felony penalties on health care providers who would administer treatment. But collectively, these bills, some of which have already passed, would curtail rights and limit freedoms in every corner of trans people’s lives: from dictating the sports teams they can join, to the public bathrooms they

JORG MEYER

can use, to whether they can serve in the military; in schools, teachers would not necessarily be able to use a student's preferred pronouns or give lessons that speak to gender identity or related topics.

Jones is clear about what TransLash's mission means to her. "My belief is that all of the terrible things that are being done to trans people is because people don't believe that we are human. And an antidote to that is to put our humanity front and center, and to convince more and more people that we are real, that we deserve human dignity, and that we deserve human rights equal to everyone else."

In the summer of 2018, when Jones turned the camera on herself for that first docuseries, she found it to be a deeply uncomfortable experience. "I'm so much more at ease interviewing other people," she says. "But [it was] also incredibly vital. It underscored for me the importance of telling our own stories. There is a magic in it, and a liberating quality. And I don't mean liberating as in unshackling. I mean you can liberate the meaning of your life by telling your story."

Today, Jones has seemingly overcome that self-consciousness; she is open about how she became her true self, describing the process

INDEED, THE URGENCY OF JONES' WORK HAS BECOME EVEN MORE ACUTE AS THE NUMBER OF ANTI-TRANS BILLS UNDER CONSIDERATION IN THE U.S. HAS REACHED NEW HIGHS.

like "water on stone." She grew up in an Atlanta suburb, where her mother owned an insurance business and her stepfather was a fire chief. She knew that she was trans "probably from around 5 or 7" and recalls becoming aware of gender in kindergarten, when the class was asked to form two single-file lines, one for boys and one for girls. "That was weird to me," she says.

"We all forget that we are actually taught gender," she adds. "That's not to say that people don't have characteristics that are natural for them. Yes, there are some girls who gravitate toward dolls or pink. But what society does is tell you that's what it means to be a girl, rather than that's what it means to be you. It's not imposed as strictly [until] you begin to enter into formal education."

As she got older, Jones realized that how she felt on the inside was the opposite of how people perceived her. "That gap, that isolation, is a space that is acute and really hard to describe — a separation that you have from the world," she says. "So then I had to cultivate in myself my own alternate reality. I did that through a variety of ways. I reimagined my days as a girl, which is common. I had to create a space that I could retreat to that was way outside the world, in order to preserve myself and who I really was."

She was also acutely aware of the contradictions around her. On the one hand, she says, Atlanta's large Black community offered a range of role models. But also, "Being a person who was queer and trans, I never saw positive images. Not only did I never see anyone who was like me, I only heard ridicule and threats and mocking of anybody who was in any way different in sexual orientation, with gender identity being even more so. In that respect it was really hostile for me. I grew up with this contrast of there being possibility, and at the same time there being extreme limitation, erasure."

Recognizing those barriers, Jones knew that she wanted to leave the South for college; the double impact of Columbia and New York City proved eye-opening. "*Everything* was influential," she says. "Being in class with these highly intelligent people operating at a really high level constantly pushed my thinking, constantly forced me to break through any limitations in my mind." Life outside the classroom, meanwhile, introduced her to "the incredible array of different humans from everywhere, and every type and shape and possibility.

"And then New York City was my teacher," she adds. "Again, the idea of possibility and chance and metamorphosis. The power of diversity and the power of difference — all those things deeply informed me." Jones pursued a double concentration in history and political science and was in student government for three of her four years, becoming class president her senior year. With visions of running for office, she earned a master's from the London School of Economics and in 1998 joined the Clinton administration as part of the Office of the United States Trade Representative. But while there, through some work with the USTR press team, she discovered the power of communications.

"It was during the time that Oprah was drawing audiences of 40 million people," Jones recalls. "I thought, that's another form of civic engagement. Change doesn't only occur in the political system; the political system *responds* to what people are talking about and what they bring up." In 2001, she shifted to corporate communications at Viacom. Her work originating — and later running — the company's "Know HIV/AIDS" campaign earned her both an Emmy and a Peabody Award.

Another turning point came in 2011. Jones had started blogging while taking time out to care for her mother, who'd fallen ill. A journalist friend encouraged her writing and ultimately signed her as a freelancer covering economic justice for a small publication, *Color Lines.* Soon Jones was writing for other outlets and doing guest spots on television and radio. At one point, she says, it dawned on her that there wasn't enough reporting about or for minority populations.

"I remember telling people, we have to change the news business. We need to begin to find ways to engage marginalized communities in the conversation about their lives," Jones says. "Because when people believe that they are important, they participate; and if you tell people they aren't important, they are not going to participate, and you'll really set yourself up for shady democracy."

Jones reflects on what she readily acknowledges was a winding path. "Often we prize the idea of the child genius, the Mozart fantasy; that we are given an idea early on in life and then that's what you do," she says. "I think it's just as powerful when the things that we are supposed to do in life come to us over time."

Jones has said on more than one occasion that Black trans women are essential to creating the future, calling them some of the most progressive and visionary leaders within social justice movements. Marsha P. Johnson, for example, was a key figure in starting the Stonewall Uprising, which catalyzed the modern LGBTQ+ movement. Miss Major Griffin-Gracy, another Stonewall participant, has for decades been instrumental in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

"When you are outside, you have perspective," Jones explains. "You understand where the fractures are, you can begin to see what needs to be done. And that perspective gives you the ability to push things forward in a way that people who are wedded to the way things are can't ever see. When the world isn't working for you, you can imagine it anew."

CARDER STOUT

Jones moderated a fireside chat about the 2024 election season with Sen. Laphonza Butler (D-Calif.). The Nov. 30 event helped to open the 2023 International LGBTQ+ Leaders Conference.

She describes a pipeline of common trans experience — from bullying and harassment in school, which undermines education; to graduating with less earning potential; to being able to afford only less stable or insecure housing, which in turn increases exposure to violence. The statistics bear out the narrative. Just last year, the Human Rights Campaign decried the "epidemic of violence" against the transgender and gender-nonconforming community, reporting that at least 33 transgender and gender-nonconforming people were killed between November 2022 and November 2023. The majority of those victims were people of color.

One of Jones' most important projects has been her investigative podcast, The Anti-Trans Hate Machine: A Plot Against Equality, which garnered an excellence in podcasting award from the National LGBTQ+ Journalists Association. The first season aired in 2021, sparked by Jones' desire to understand what was behind the dramatic increase in anti-trans legislation. In it, she explores the funding sources, people, right-wing organizations and extreme ideologies driving anti-trans sentiment, as well as (in season two) the ecosystem through which disinformation is spread.

Her latest effort, launched in March, is the subscriber-only podcast The Mess: Imara's Guide to Our Political Hellscape. The tone is "less NPR," as Jones puts it — a chance to cut loose more and speak to "the absurdity of the political atmosphere right now while also analyzing and breaking it down for people, [identifying] what they should be paying attention to."

She also sees the show as a way of addressing an absence of voice. "Trans people are a huge political topic right now, but we are not represented in any political conversations," she says. "There are no trans people on any of the Sunday morning shows, there's not one trans contributor on any cable news show, there are few trans people in major newsrooms — and the people who are talking about us politically are not us. That doesn't make any sense; it doesn't make sense to have a community not be able to have a voice in a political season."

With so much happening — including this past summer's nationwide broadcast of her PBS documentary, *American Problems, Trans Solutions,* as well as the debut of TransLash's new website — I can't help but wonder how Jones keeps balance in her life. "I'm a big believer in taking vacations," she says, adding with a laugh: "Do *not* call me unless it is an emergency on the level of 911."

She says that reading also keeps her centered, especially biographies. "Just understanding the sweep of history and the sweep of time can contextualize what feels for us unprecedented and overwhelming," she says. "I did a ton of reading during Covid on the French Revolution, revisiting that period. Their whole world fell apart, and people were still going to work and getting paid and doing all the normal things. It helps to have a sense that things can break, and they can actually come back together again. I really do believe that we are in one of those great turning points in history."

Asked what's been most surprising about her work with TransLash, Jones takes a long pause. "That I get to do it," she says. "Really. That I get to do this at all and that it matters and it's important and it's extremely challenging and it's stimulating and scary and all the things."

She takes a step back to consider the holistic view: "Every day, everyone gets trapped in the humdrum of their jobs. The person who doesn't respond to email, the thing you need to do. We all get that; I get that. But then there are things that puncture that. Like the person who wrote in anonymously several years ago saying they watched *The Future of Trans* and it stopped them from committing suicide. Or, 'I saw what you did on X, and it helped me understand what my partner who is transitioning is going through.' And 'What you're doing about our issues in Texas is giving us hope.'

"All of those things, where [you realize] what you are doing in the world does matter and is touching people. That continues to surprise me."

TWENTY YEARS OF FRONTIERS

BY JILL C. SHOMER

HOW SCIENCE — AND SCIENTIFIC HABITS OF MIND — BECAME PART OF THE CORE CURRICULUM

ILLUSTRATION BY DAVIDE BONAZZI // PHOTOGRAPHS BY JÖRG MEYER

ON DAY ONE OF FRONTIERS OF SCIENCE, at the start of their first full week of classes, hundreds of College first-years get to see a real human brain. The preserved 3-pound organ, encased in a translucent container, is pulled with dramatic flourish from an otherwise nondescript cloth bag. "The whole room gasps," Ruben L. Gonzalez Jr., a professor of chemistry and the current chair of Frontiers, says with obvious pride. "It's a very cool introduction. The students show up that first day and it's like, 'We're going to talk about *this*.'"

That immediacy is what sets Frontiers apart from its Core Curriculum counterparts: This is not a humanities class that begins in antiquity; it's tangible, up-to-the-minute science. If the mission of the Core is to equip students with the knowledge and habits of mind essential to 21st-century citizenry, then Frontiers checks that box explicitly, approaching science in a way that's both interdisciplinary and focused on present challenges like climate change and disease control.

This fall marks the 20th anniversary of Frontiers' introduction to the Core Curriculum. The one-semester course is required of all first-years (half the incoming class takes Frontiers in the Fall semester, while the other half fulfills the University Writing requirement; then they switch for the Spring semester). The structure comprises four units — Mind and Brain; Physics and Reality; Molecules and Life; and Climate and Us — with a Monday lecture followed by a small-group seminar to discuss and debate that week's topic and associated readings.

But the essence of the course, the element that makes it "very Core," according to Larry Jackson, director of the Core Curriculum, is the focus on scientific habits of mind. "The Core is about thinking; it's about the ways in which we make certain kinds of judgments," he says. "Those could be aesthetic judgments, or philosophical judgments or judgments about characters in literature. In Frontiers, students are learning how to make scientific judgments and how to think scientifically. It's almost like teaching science at a slight remove, to be able to reflect on what science actually *is*."

Frontiers of Science is what it is thanks to the vision of David J. Helfand, the iconic professor of astronomy who has been on the Columbia faculty for more than 45 years. But it took more than two decades from the time a recommendation was made to inject the Core with science until the course was in place, and another decade-plus for it to become fully incorporated. So what exactly did it take to break into the Core Curriculum?

HELFAND IS FREQUENTLY DESCRIBED as a "rock star," and it's not hard to see why: An expert in high-energy astrophysics, he has spent nearly half his time on the faculty as chair of the Department of Astronomy. He received a 2001 Presidential Award for Outstanding Teaching by Faculty and a 2002 Great Teacher Award from the Society of Columbia Graduates, and has been the president of both Canada's Quest University and the American Astronomical Society.

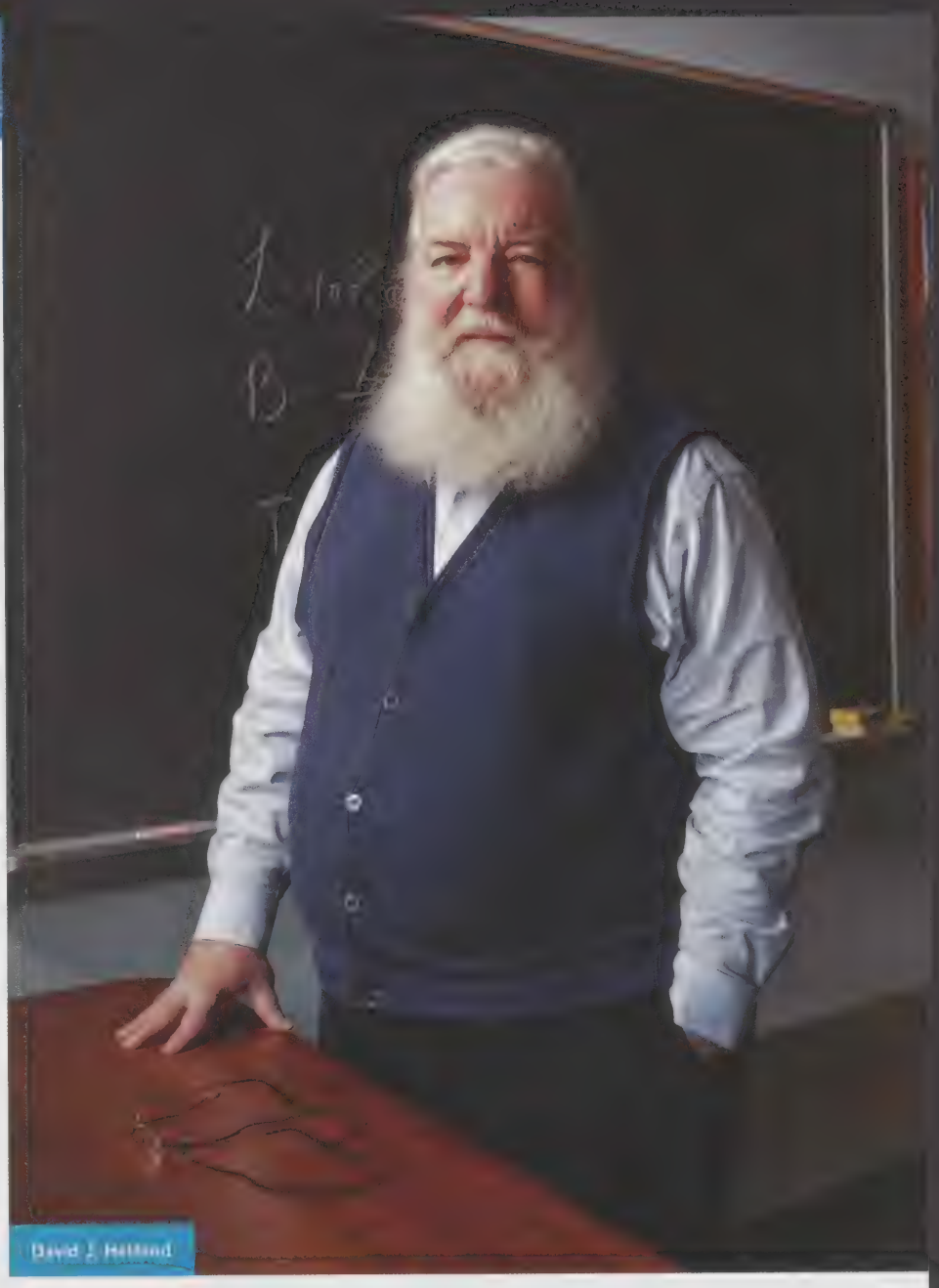
As is common with rock stars, Helfand says he enjoys a battle, and there were plenty of them in his 22-year quest to establish Frontiers. When he arrived at Columbia in the late 1970s, Helfand was delighted by the Core, then it its 60th year. But he was appalled that the curriculum included no science courses. Helfand seized the opportunity for change when biologist Robert Pollack '61 became dean in 1982 — the first scientist to hold the post. "I was on various committees in which I met with [Pollack] and pontificated on the fact that the Core was hardly an intellectual coat of arms for the 21st century if it had no science or math," Helfand says.

Pollack agreed, and brainstormed with Helfand and other science faculty to develop a course that would cover

biology, physics and math using the Core framework of studying primary texts. The first experimental classes had students reading original papers authored by famous scientists like Albert Einstein and Watson and Crick, but Helfand says the articles required so much annotation to make them accessible that hardly any "primary text" remained. Additionally, these papers were often so specific to a certain topic that it was difficult to impart the fundamentals of scientific and quantitative reasoning — an essential for a Core course. After only a few iterations, "Experiment 1" was shelved.

Helfand bounced back quickly, creating an interdisciplinary course that addressed geology, biology and astronomy by considering the physics of atoms. Though Helfand still occasionally teaches "The Universal Timekeepers: Reconstructing History Atom by Atom" (and last fall published a book by the same title), the course didn't meet the obligations of the Core. "Experiment 2" was a bust.

During the 1990s, Helfand's mission was nearly scrubbed. There was significant opposition to expanding the Core, and a committee on science created by then-new dean Austin E. Quigley explicitly recommended against it. But a subgroup kept the discussion alive — so much so that by the end of the decade Helfand was inspired to try again. With the help of astronomy professor Jacqueline van Gorkom and neuroscientist Darcy Kelley (who had been involved with Experiment 1), they pitched and won support from Provost Jonathan Cole '64.


David J. Helfand

Helfand says he enjoys a battle, and there were plenty of them in his 22-year quest to establish Frontiers.

The team quickly converged on goals for "Experiment 3": a course that would teach science happening in the present by faculty who could bring results from their labs into the classroom, and where students would master the scientific habits of mind required for life as an informed citizen. "We wanted to represent science as a vibrant and creative social activity rather than a sterile collection of facts," Helfand says.

By Fall 2003, a Frontiers pilot was launched for a group of 350 first-years who had opted into the program. It was a rocky start: A different faculty member lectured each week, which made it incohesive and disorienting for students. But by the end of the semester, they settled on the current format of four discrete sections, each about three weeks in duration and taught by the same professor.

At the January 2004 meeting of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, "Frontiers of Science" was officially proposed as an addition to the Core Curriculum. The ensuing debate was vigorous, with some arguing that science should stay within the purview of individual departments. Others took the opportunity to object to the Core, period. But despite the critics, support for the pro side — which included a dynamic presentation by two young lecturers from the pilot program — won the day. Frontiers was taught to all first-years for the first time in Fall 2004.

Helfand's battles didn't stop there: Arguments about the course's worthiness lingered until the mid-2010s. The clamor was enough to merit an outside evaluation in 2014 by the influential Center for Inquiry at Wabash College, which delivered a ringing endorsement: "We think it's a remarkable course, and a remarkably led course, that extends the distinctive qualities and impact of Columbia's Core Curriculum."

Since then, buoyed by the center's approval along with ever-improving student feedback, Helfand reports Frontiers has persisted without issue. "We survived!" he says with a chuckle. "And I can assert with confidence that it is a much better course today than it was at its inception."

CENTRAL TO THE COURSE TODAY are the Monday morning lectures that introduce skills and ideas for later discussion and debate in seminar. (Fun fact: There isn't a lecture hall on the Morningside campus big enough to accommodate the roughly 600 undergrads that make up half an incoming class; Frontiers lectures are held in Horace Mann Hall at Teachers College.)

The Mind and Brain series is led by Daphna Shohamy, the Kavli Professor of Brain Science and director and CEO of the Zuckerman Institute. Over three lectures — starting with the aforementioned gray matter — she details what we know and don't know about the brain and how it functions.

Popular physicist Professor Brian Greene helms Physics and Reality, with relatable lectures about special relativity (aka: What Happens at Very High Speeds?); general relativity (What Happens When Objects are Very Massive?); and quantum mechanics (What Happens When Objects are Very Small?). "This is always everyone's favorite unit," Gonzalez says. "Students are just blown away."

Ivana Nikolić Hughes

Gonzalez himself teaches the third section, Molecules and Life, which addresses biology, health and disease from a molecular point of view (think: DNA, RNA, proteins). He gives particular focus to a timely story: This past December, the FDA approved the first gene-editing therapy to treat a genetic disease. "I'd been teaching [that topic] for the past year and a half; telling students, 'this is coming, this is going to happen, we're almost there' ... and then in the fall it was like: 'It happened today,'" Gonzalez says. "This is a unit of the course that truly embodies the frontier."

In the last unit, Climate and Us, Helfand discusses how climate has evolved over thousands of years. For a bracing finale, he plots the increase of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere over the past 65 years — driven by the burning of fossil fuels — which tracks with increases in Earth's temperature. The tension it brings into the room is palpable.

"I think that climate change makes the mission of Frontiers even more important," Gonzalez says. "David tells them, these are not just scientific problems — these are human problems. These are political problems. It's really important to understand that this isn't just knowledge for knowledge's sake; students can put this knowledge into action in a very real way."

It all makes for rich discussion and debate in the seminars, where students can hone their critical thinking skills asking questions and considering consequences. Ivana Nikolić Hughes, director of Frontiers and a senior lecturer in discipline in the Department of

Chemistry, works with all of the course's faculty to ensure cohesion between lectures and seminars, as well as all other course materials, reading, assignments and more.

"The theme that holds Frontiers together — and connects it to the rest of the Core Curriculum — is those scientific habits of mind," Hughes says. "In every unit, we want students to recognize how scientists think, how they set up and test hypotheses, evaluate data and evidence, and finally make conclusions."

Hughes works closely with the entire team. The bulk of seminars are taught by recent Ph.D.s, who are at Columbia as part of the Science Fellows Program; Hughes mentors the fellows, a few of whom are new to the program each academic year. On Monday mornings they discuss challenges from the previous week and what's on deck for the week ahead; later, after attending that week's lecture, they have a working lunch with the lecturer that includes time for curricular and pedagogical questions. In the afternoon, the entire group talks through how to present the seminar for the week; there's even a meeting to discuss the course exams. "Mondays are my favorite," Hughes says.

Hughes and Helfand agree that the ability to develop new science faculty is an added benefit of Frontiers; Helfand estimates that since 2004, nearly 100 Ph.D.s have launched their careers by teaching the course. "I really think that Frontiers is a service to the nation," Hughes says. "It's the students going out into the world, of course, but the ever-changing team of fellows is also a big source of innovation in science education around the country."

How might Frontiers continue to innovate and evolve over the next 20 years? While the syllabus is constantly tweaked to stay current, Gonzalez also dreams of broadening the four units with more topics and lecturers. "For example, I take a very biomedical approach to Molecules and Life, but what if someone like [Columbia chemists] Colin Nuckolls or Luis Campos came in to talk about how our ever-increasing understanding of molecules is advancing material science?" he says. "If students knew about the chemistry and technology that goes into say, developing an iPhone, it would blow their minds!"

Making Frontiers more inclusive is also a priority. Gonzalez says efforts are being made to highlight more of the work and experiences of scientists who identify as women, as well as members of other groups who have been historically underrepresented in science. And he is proud that the Frontiers team itself walks the walk. "We're pretty diverse in terms of who's in front of them in lectures and seminars, which is critical," he says. "Everyone in the room should be able to feel like they could do this."

"It's really important to understand that this isn't just knowledge for knowledge's sake; students can put this knowledge into action in a very real way."

For Larry Jackson, the key is to keep the focus on communication. "What all students are ultimately learning in Frontiers is how to communicate," he says. "They're all learning how to communicate these scientific ideas, and hopefully also how to listen to people who might feel as though they don't understand the issues, or as though they feel alienated from science in some way.

"And that's very clearly what we need in the 21st century."

A WHIRLWIND OF CREATIVITY

Pulitzer Prize-winning composer and sound artist Ellen Reid '05 takes on artistic challenges with an open spirit

IN LATE FEBRUARY, Ellen Reid '05 boarded a KLM flight bound for Amsterdam, where she had been named composer-in-residence for both the world-renowned Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra and its acoustically superb concert hall, the Concertgebouw. A full schedule of new works and collaborations awaited her, beginning with final rehearsals for the world premiere of her second opera, *The Shell Trial,* commissioned by the Dutch National Opera.

So as Reid crossed the Atlantic that night, she had plenty to look forward to, including life in Amsterdam itself, a place rich in beauty, charm, history and of course, bicycles — massive numbers of them. This can be daunting to newcomers, even those who live in fast-paced Brooklyn and Los Angeles, as she does. "I'm working up the courage," she said. "But yes, I have a bike. I have my helmet. I'm ready to go."

Openness to challenge is Reid's hallmark, along with the emotional power of such works as *p r i s m,* the opera that earned her the 2019 Pulitzer Prize in Music. During her still-young artistic career, she has teamed up with major symphony orchestras and chamber groups, theater and film productions, jazz soloists and cutting-edge software engineers, all adding to her growing reputation for adventurous, compelling artistry. In 2015, she contributed music for a "mobile opera" by Yuval Sharon that took place inside 24 cars winding their way through downtown L.A. For an instrumental piece in

By Jamie Katz '72, BUS'80

The Ellen Reid Soundwalk series was inspired by parks around the world.

2019, members of the Los Angeles Philharmonic were positioned on different floors of Walt Disney Concert Hall. In a work for Opera Omaha, she transformed a playground swing set into kid-friendly interactive sound sculpture, using car mufflers, oil drums, tail pipes, helium caps, plastic tubing and a motorcycle wheel.

> "HER MATERIAL IS JUST SO ATTRACTIVE, AND SMART, AND UNEXPECTED. BUT IT'S ALWAYS VERY STRIKING AND INTERESTING AND VERY ELLEN."

Asked how she chooses her instrumental palette, Reid reframes the question. "It's not necessarily about the instruments, but about the timbres or the colors, how to achieve them with whatever instruments there are," she says. "It's really fun as a creative person to push the way that they're used to meet the timbres that are in my imagination."

"Ellen is still in a period of rapid growth," says her former teacher George E. Lewis, the Edwin H. Case Professor of American Music at Columbia, himself a noted composer and soloist. "What she did, even for the Pulitzer, doesn't necessarily represent what she is doing now, or what she will be doing in the future. In fact, one cannot really sit with a couple of her pieces and say, 'Here is her approach.' She seems to regard each new commission as a moment for self-reinvention. And she is not at all reticent about addressing the big themes — love, death, transformation."

Nadia Sirota, an acclaimed violist, conductor, producer and podcaster who has worked closely with Reid in recent years, marvels at the distinctiveness of Reid's compositional voice. "Sometimes you can listen to her music and think, oh, that's classical opera. Sometimes you can listen and think, oh, that's sort of electronic ambient work. Yet it all sounds like Ellen, which is really impressive," Sirota says. "Her material just is so attractive, and smart, and unexpected. It lends itself beautifully to so many different contexts. But it's always very striking and interesting and very Ellen."

Reid (with President Lee C. Bollinger in 2019) was encouraged by her Columbia professors to pursue music composition.

EILEEN BARROSO

ONE EASILY ACCESSIBLE WAY to enter Reid's artistic world is through her ambitious series, *Ellen Reid Soundwalk,* co-produced by Sirota. Inspired by 16 urban parks around the world, each Soundwalk uses advanced geolocation technology to match Reid-composed soundscapes with specific paths and vistas in the parks. Using a free app, listeners can tour the natural environments at their own pace, on their own routes, each triggering a continuous stream of music matched to those locations.

The *Soundwalk* project began with Manhattan's Central Park in 2020, followed by Griffith Park in L.A. and eventually embracing city parks from London to Tokyo. (She recently reworked the Central Park installment to include the Lincoln Center campus and The Juilliard School.) The music is scored for the New York Philharmonic, the Kronos Quartet and British-Barbadian tenor saxophonist Shabaka Hutchings, among other collaborators. "The cool thing about making *Soundwalk* is that I can't control how anybody does it," Reid says. "It's how the listener wants to use it. That's really exciting for me as a composer who normally makes work in more controlled environments, to have something that's so free."

Reid's newest album, *Big Majestic: Music from Ellen Reid Soundwalk,* draws on the scores of several of the Soundwalks, knitted together to form what the composer terms a "through-composed" piece. "It moves through different kinds of genres," says Sirota. "It has synthesizer and orchestral music. It has jazz. It spans this broad musical landscape through the different pieces of music. But it all connects through the composition."

Reid is such a protean artist that trying to classify her in terms of style or genre only serves to confine her. Even within what is broadly termed classical music, she is versatile enough to have become the first composer to have works commissioned and premiered by all four of L.A.'s major classical institutions: the Los Angeles Philharmonic, L.A. Opera, L.A. Master Chorale and L.A. Chamber Orchestra, where she is now contemporary music chair. She also became the only woman to have her work interpreted by all four institutions, all in 2018. At the time, Reid has noted, less than three percent of the music performed in concert halls was by female composers.

She is paying her good fortune forward: Along with fellow composer Missy Mazzoli, Reid cofounded Luna Composition Lab, a mentorship program aimed at self-identified female, nonbinary and gender-non-

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A scene from *The Shell Trial*, performed by the Dutch National Opera. Reid's second opera, with a libretto by Roxie Perkins, had its world premiere in Amsterdam earlier this year.

conforming composers in their teens. Since it began on a shoestring in 2016, the program has grown in staff, budget and results.

"Ninety-five percent of our students major in composition in universities and conservatories, and 100 percent remain active in music in some way," says Mazzoli, who is one of the first women commissioned to compose a new work for the Metropolitan Opera (*Lincoln in the Bardo*, due in 2026). "Ellen and I are very close friends, but have very different skills," she notes. "I'm really into the numbers — building a budget and fundraising — and Ellen has this amazing vision for the long-term future of the program."

GROWING UP in Oak Ridge, Tenn., Reid discovered her love of music and theater at an early age. She played Gretl in a first-grade staging of *The Sound of Music,* took piano lessons, sang in church choirs and played percussion in the high school marching band. During her College years she reveled in the city's cultural offerings and often went to jazz clubs and edgy music venues like The Stone, in Greenwich Village.

"At Columbia I learned how to form, articulate and investigate my own point of view," Reid says. "I learned how to debate and hold space for differing opinions, and I learned the power of protest."

Lewis was largely responsible for her turn to composing, she says. When Reid was a senior in his musicology class, Lewis happened to hear some music she had created for a different course. Intrigued, he encouraged her to focus on creating original works. Reid also impressed Professor Brad Garton in his introductory course on digital sound. "The stuff Ellen produced for the class was just kind of stunning," he recalls. "She really had a sense of happiness, and people jumped on her enthusiasm bandwagon. It's great when a student like her comes along."

After graduation, Reid spent a few years in Thailand, first teaching music at an international school in Chiang Mai, then as the music director at a Bangkok theater. There, she got to work with Thai classical musicians. "It really opened my mind to different ways of creating compositional form and shape," she says. "I was immersed in that for a while."

She returned to teach music in New York and L.A. public schools for five years, while writing music for theater companies. Then it was off to California Institute of the Arts for an M.A., an experience Reid calls "super awesome."

"I'm interested in interdisciplinary collaboration, and at CalArts we were able to work with dancers, and I was able to meet theater directors and performers. There was support within the school to do that kind of thing."

Before she was able to commit fully to life as a composer and sound artist, Reid worked as a nanny, a temp, a grant writer — whatever she needed to do to get by. "There's a lot of shame around artists having to

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Reid's Pulitzer Prize-winning opera, *p r i s m*, tells the story of a mother and daughter struggling with the aftermath of a sexual assault.

hold other jobs," Reid says. "But that's just not realistic. For artists it's always a balance between what you do to pay your rent and what you do to feed your soul."

Her prize-winning opera, *p r i s m* (with libretto by Roxie Perkins), was 10 years in the making before it debuted in November 2018 at the L.A. Opera. "It's the story of a mother and daughter as their relationship disintegrates after a sexual assault," Reid says.

"It's told in three acts with really different musical landscapes to illuminate the story and set the scenes. As the daughter discovers more of what happened to her, the soundscape reflects that."

> "FOR ARTISTS IT'S ALWAYS A BALANCE BETWEEN WHAT YOU DO TO PAY YOUR RENT AND WHAT YOU DO TO FEED YOUR SOUL."

Reid is herself a survivor of sexual assault, but emphasizes that the story is fictional and that she is wary of her personal experience becoming people's focus, rather than the art. "I'm comfortable with people mentioning it; it's just sometimes that takes away from the power of the work," she says.

The Pulitzer citation praised her use of "sophisticated vocal writing and striking instrumental timbres to confront difficult subject matter." The program for the ceremony, held in Low Library, described *p r i s m* as "a haunting, kaleidoscopic new work of opera-theatre that traverses the elasticity of memory after trauma. Composer Ellen Reid's music erupts with color, using choral and orchestral manipulation to deliver an eerily distinct sonic world."

REID'S SCHEDULE heated up quickly once she arrived in Amsterdam and settled in for the season with her husband, designer Adam Manjiro Lesser, and their infant daughter, Simone.

First came the March 16 premiere of *The Shell Trial,* inspired by an ongoing real-life legal drama. ("A Brechtian *cri de coeur* about climate change and complicity, this is an ambitious, passionate show," *The New York Times* said in a review.) Just weeks later came a Royal Concertgebouw program showcasing five of Reid's compositions, along with works by Vijay Iyer, Meredith Monk and others.

There are significant works in progress, too. In November, the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra will debut Reid's latest as-yet-untitled symphonic work, under the baton of *wunderkind* conductor Klaus Mäkelä; they will also perform the work later that month at Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center, a career milestone for any composer. Also in November, Reid will curate the Noon to Midnight Festival at the Los Angeles Philharmonic, featuring mostly L.A. talent. And in April 2025, the Concertgebouw will present Reid's composition *Today and today and today and today and today and today and today and today and today* on a program that includes works by Nico Muhly '03.

As impressive as Reid's many accomplishments have been, it is her wide-open spirit and artistic integrity that have endeared her to teachers, friends and fellow artists — often one and the same.

"She is extremely small in stature and extremely large in personality," says Nadia Sirota. "One of the people that she reminds me of on some level is Dolly Parton, in that they're both very small people from Tennessee whom you should not underestimate.

"Ellen similarly is just an absolute force to be reckoned with," Sirota continues. "She can work in so many different contexts, but it's always extremely true to her voice. And that is a gift. That is extremely special."

Former CCT *editor* **Jamie Katz '72, BUS'80** *has also held senior editorial positions at* People, Vibe *and* Latina *magazines and contributes to* Smithsonian Magazine *and other publications. A former jazz director of WKCR, he is currently working with public radio producer Aaron Cohen on the fourth season of the award-winning podcast Embrace Everything: The World of Gustav Mahler. Katz profiled composer Nico Muhly '03 for the Spring 2017* CCT *cover story, "The Music Man."*

Giving Voice to Values

Read the winner of the Undergraduate Community Initiative Essay Contest

Photographs by Jörg Meyer

THIS PAST SPRING, Columbia College, Columbia Engineering and Columbia General Studies came together to launch the Undergraduate Community Initiative (UCI), a series of programming focused on cultivating a shared commitment to the values of belonging, respect and service. The initiative kicked off in January with a celebration of the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr., followed soon after by two performances by Theater of War, which stages readings of seminal texts to foster dialogue about difficult issues. Related events continued throughout the semester.

The UCI Essay Contest, meanwhile, invited students to reflect on a time that they chose to pursue or embody one of the initiative's key values, and how that decision made a difference in their life and in the lives of others. Here, we share the winning submission, by **Emma Shen '26,** which makes an affecting point about the value of listening and the power of small actions to make a significant difference. Second place went to **Tazia Mohammad '27,** whose carefully observed piece about everyday communication can be found online at college.columbia.edu/cct.

Congratulations to the winners, and thank you to all the students who submitted their work.

Navigating the Universe of Human Connection

By Emma Shen '26

"We are all the center of our own universe."

I jolted in surprise from my seat and looked at my roommate. She was staring at the wall, her mind clearly on matters beyond the confines of our dorm room. I gave a noncommittal nod, a silent gesture to acknowledge what should have been an innocuous comment.

It wasn't.

She opened her mouth as if to say more, but silence ensued. Instead, she gave a deep sigh and turned off the lights to go to sleep.

I lay awake for a while that night. It was cold, typical for February, but it felt even chillier than usual. Something bothered me about what my roommate had said. She had spoken into existence a feeling I'd been carrying with me all day, a feeling I could not identify because it was too complex to capture in a single word.

I had woken up that morning stressed and in a bad mood, mainly because I had a lot of schoolwork and two Hirevue interviews to film to help with my summer internship search (Hirevues are the bane of my existence). As a student-athlete, I can say with certainty that time is the most valuable commodity I have. With all of the tasks I needed to complete that day, I knew time was not going to be on my side.

Therefore, when one of my friends texted to ask if we could meet for lunch, my instinct was to decline. The precious hour that would be spent chatting about trivial matters was an hour that I could not afford. However, something in the way she wrote the text caught my attention, and I paused. I usually studied with this friend but never had meals with her. Was there something going on? My gut instinct was to accept the invitation, so I did.

We met at a nearby cafe, and I immediately could tell something was off. Her eyes were rimmed red; clearly, she'd been crying. I didn't say anything, though, simply greeted her with a hug and suggested we find a table and get our food. Once we situated ourselves and had gotten past the usual pleasantries, I knew I had to ask: "Are you OK?"

Tears started streaming down her face as she tried to respond, but I could tell nothing coherent was going to make it out anytime soon. Concerned, I handed her the brown napkins from the middle of the table and waited until she was ready to speak.

"I have no one here at Columbia."

Those were the first words she uttered. They are words I will never forget.

I won't go into the details of our conversation because it's private to me and my friend, but I will say this: As she expressed her emotions, I felt hot prickles of shame and guilt build up inside of me. Here I had been, just earlier that day, griping about trivial matters while my friend was struggling. I didn't know where to hide my face.

We spoke for two hours, at the end of which my friend seemed to be in a significantly better state. I, on the other hand, felt like I'd been hit by a truck.

As I lay in bed that night mulling over the day's events, I reflected on myself. Time and time again, I have turned people down for the sake of maintaining a decent GPA, furthering my career prospects or attending sports practice. Yet I have never paused to consider how my actions have impacted others. The idea that they would even impact others feels counterintuitive because so many choices I have made are in my self-interest, and rarely pertain to anyone else. However, when it comes to building relationships and building a community, I could have done better. I failed to recognize a friend who was hurting, and I could not sleep because of that.

My solution is not groundbreaking; I simply make it a point to share a meal with a friend more often and ask them how they're doing.

Is the fact that I have lunch more often with friends going to change the world? Probably not. But I write this essay because I think my experience is more common than one would think. The culture at Columbia and in NYC is fast paced and unforgiving. Taking the time to do small things like asking how someone is doing should be easy, yet it happens a lot less than it should. I am living proof of this.

I still take care of the tasks I need to complete, and I continue to prioritize my academics and sports performance. However, even though I'm the center of my own universe, nothing is preventing me from visiting the other planets. It just takes a little thought and some energy on my end.

Emma Shen '26 *is studying financial economics and computer science, and is on the golf team.*

A Grand Adventure

Writer Kevin Fedarko '88 took the hike of a lifetime

You could call journalist **Kevin Fedarko '88** a pilgrim — he embarked on a journey that led to a spiritual discovery. And what a journey it was: Fedarko, a former writer and correspondent at *TIME,* and Pete McBride, a photographer and documentary filmmaker on assignment for *National Geographic,* walked (and sometimes "crawled like insects") through the Grand Canyon. Their 750-mile hike in the 6,000-foot-deep stone wilderness took 75 grueling days, consisting of eight expeditions over a 14-month period that started in 2015.

The pair averaged 15 miles a day, often in 100-plus-degree heat. To get a sense of how mind boggling and dangerous their bushwacking was, consider this: Fewer people have done what Fedarko and McBride did than have walked on the moon. "This landscape would pare you down, too, peeling away the layers until it had stripped you into something that, not unlike the land itself, lay very close to the bone," Fedarko writes in his new book, *A Walk in the Park: The True Story of a Spectacular Misadventure in the Grand Canyon* (Scribner, $32.50).

Fedarko went into the canyon — "a holy place; a cathedral in the desert," he writes — for very personal reasons. He was 50 when his expedition began, and hoped he might return "with a better grasp of who I was, and perhaps a renewed sense of whom I might become, before it was too late to grow and change."

The grandson of a Pennsylvania coal miner, Fedarko grew up taking Sunday hikes with him through mounds of oily black slag and crushed shale along the Youghiogheny River. After graduating from the College, eager to escape Manhattan's steel canyons, Fedarko headed west and became a guide for a whitewater outfitter on the Colorado River. He later turned his experience rowing sharp-bowed, hard-hulled dories into his first book, *The Emerald Mile: The Epic Story of the Fastest Ride in History Through the Heart of the Grand Canyon*; it won a National Outdoor Book Award in 2013.

Yet he says his mastery of the canyon's watery world made him overconfident. "To have mastered the nuances of whitewater is inadequate preparation," Fedarko says. "For the moment you step away from that world, you enter the world of rock, where a very different set of rules apply, and you never master any of it. It ultimately masters you, and you surrender to that larger truth and then draw what conclusions and insights and gifts follow from that."

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The world of rock was a world of suffering. "The bottoms of my feet looked like someone had fired a shotgun into them," Fedarko notes after the first blazing-hot leg of his trek. "It [was] like the sun [was] tapping on the top of my head with a ball-peen hammer."

But *A Walk in the Park* is more than an adventure saga or a recounting of each day's blisters, burns and burdens. Fedarko learned about Native American rights, overtourism and pollution. He also became more humble and grateful. "Powerful landscapes strengthen the connective tissue, the bonds that bind people together," he says.

Writing the book was also a struggle — one that took seven years. "When I was in the canyon, I didn't think that there could be anything less pleasant and more awful than walking from one end of Grand Canyon to the other," he says. "Then, of course, I discovered that indeed there is, because writing about walking through the canyon is far worse."

The first deadline wrecker came when Fedarko realized he wanted to chronicle the canyon's 1.7-billion-year geologic history, and report on its 9,000-year history of human habitation. He gave particular attention to the plights of the Hualapai and Havasupai, the Native American tribes that call the Grand Canyon home. "Writing the book was like going to graduate school for geology, botany, hydrology and human history," he says.

Getting the words onto the page posed a second problem, even though Fedarko has the gift of speaking in complete sentences that are both lush and grammatically correct. He calls his work process, perhaps too harshly, "a complete mess" and likens it to his canyon trek.

"When you're making your way on foot from the eastern end to the western end of the Grand Canyon, that journey is defined by the fact that there is no trail. You're continuously moving into and then back out of tributary canyons — endless, endless detours.

"And that's exactly what writing this was like," he says.

In *A Walk in the Park*'s first chapter, excerpted here, Fedarko attempts to frame the scale and vastness of the canyon, setting the stage for his pilgrimage through a landscape that is broadly recognized by many, but experienced by very few.

Ultimately, Fedarko realized neither words nor pictures could capture the canyon's essence and impact. Silence, he concluded, was its "least appreciated treasure," one that might have the most powerful impact on the soul.

"Dense, crystalline silence blankets the landscape," he says. "The stillness that accompanies that silence opens a space inside you for things we don't get to do in the world beyond the walls of the canyon — contemplation, introspection, reflection." — *George Spencer*

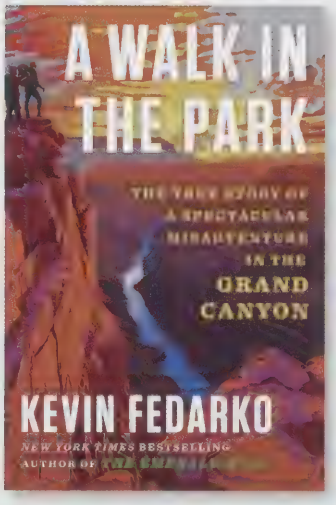
Chapter 1: The Abyss

A nugget of conventional wisdom peddled by the boatmen of the Colorado River suggests that if it were somehow possible to take every inch of the terrain wedged between the walls of the Grand Canyon, including the faces of all the cliffs, and pull everything out flat, you'd wind up with a chunk of real estate bigger than Texas. That's a bold claim — and for anyone familiar with the average river guide's fondness for doctoring up facts for the sake of entertainment, it should come as little surprise to learn that it's a load of nonsense.

Strictly speaking, the topography of the canyon — which can perhaps best be imagined as a range of mountains roughly the length of the Pyrenees flipped upside down and countersunk below the horizon — has a total surface area no bigger than that of Delaware. But even so, those whitewater guides deserve some credit for putting their fingers on an important truth, because few things come closer to capturing the canyon's stupefying depth and labyrinthine complexity than the possibility that it might somehow be capable of swallowing up the entirety of the Lone Star State.

If there's a key to framing the scale and vastness of that abyss, it lies within the tiered walls that descend from the canyon's rims — one set running along the north side, the other along the south — whose longest drop exceeds six thousand vertical feet: tall enough that if five Empire State Buildings were stacked one on top of another, they would barely reach the highest point on the North Rim. In fact, the total loss of elevation from rim to river is so great that the climate actually shifts, becoming significantly hotter as one descends. With every thousand feet of drop, the temperature increases by roughly 5°F, giving rise to a ladder of meteorological zones and niches so discrete that the flora and fauna at the top bear little if any relation to the forms of life on the bottom.

Inside the canyon below, life-forms from three of North America's four deserts — the Great Basin, the Sonoran, and the Mojave — all collide and commingle. Here the air temperature during the summer will push beyond 120°F, while the surface temperature of the stone can easily claw its way up to 170°F — hot



enough to kill a snake caught in the open within a few minutes, or cook a Giant Hairy Scorpion in just less than an hour.

Under these conditions, only the hardiest things can persevere: tiny tree frogs that bide their time in rocky crevices for months on end; spiders capable of waiting two hundred days in a burrow without a drop of water; seeds with the patience to remain dormant for an entire century until, under just the right circumstances, they give themselves permission to sprout. There are species of cactus whose limbs retreat into the ground, and in some areas even the streams are rendered so tenuous by the heat that their waters recede into the stone by day and emerge only by night, trickling timorously beneath the bleached gaze of the moon and the stars.

Nowhere else is the ground so broken and the past so exposed. Nowhere else can a person move simultaneously along so many different dimensions: forward in space, backward in time, and across the face of an entire hemisphere of life zones, ecosystems, and biological communities. Nowhere else is the simple act of putting one foot in front of the other so provocative, so destabilizing, so densely freighted with rich and interlocking layers of meaning.

And perhaps most extraordinary of all, the contours of no other landscape are so broadly recognized by so many even as its essence remains known — truly known — to so few, because glimpsing its deepest secrets and ferreting out its hidden treasures requires something that only a small number of us are willing to embrace. An undertaking that extends well beyond what Theodore Roosevelt called for when he referred to the canyon, in a speech he delivered on the South Rim in the spring of 1903, as "one of the great sights which every American, if he can travel at all, should see."

Aside from simply looking at it, you must lace up your boots and actually step inside the place.

When Pete first approached me with his proposal for a walk in the park, I didn't need much of an introduction. For most of my life I had been obsessed with the canyon and had even spent a number of summers living and working on the Colorado as an apprentice whitewater guide, a story we'll get to in good time. This may not have qualified me as an expert. But I viewed myself as someone with enough knowledge and experience to feel that he knew what he was getting into by agreeing to tackle the place the hard way: moving through it on foot.

Alas, although I didn't know it at the time, I didn't have the faintest clue how truly unfit Pete and I both were, in every possible way, for a journey that would pull us into parts of the canyon where, for good reasons, few travelers have ever been. A journey that was supposed to last no more than a couple of months, but would ultimately turn into the longest, most arduous ordeal that either of us had ever endured while forcing us to confront at multiple points along its arc the question of why we had bothered to start, and whether it was worth the trouble of finishing. But it was also a journey in which the canyon would show us things we had never dreamed of.

At the start of this quest, I had no way of imagining that long after it was over I would still be struggling to formulate a coherent response to the miseries the canyon inflicted on us, the satisfactions that would later overtake the memories of that misery, or the yearning and splendor that transcended them all. I had no way to fathom the force with which the canyon's austerity, its grandeur, and its radiance — traits that stand implacably aloof to human hopes and ambitions — can impart a perspective that will enable you to see yourself as nothing more, and nothing less, than a grain of sand amid the immensity of rock and time and the stars at night.

Excerpted from *A Walk in the Park: The True Story of a Spectacular Misadventure in the Grand Canyon* by Kevin Fedarko. Copyright © 2024 by Kevin Fedarko. Reprinted by permission of Scribner, an imprint of Simon & Schuster, LLC.

alumni news

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A NEIGHBORHOOD INSTITUTION

For more than 60 years, The Hungarian Pastry Shop has been a meeting place for students, alumni, professors and locals.

JENNA BASCOM PHOTOGRAPHY

Columbia College Women Have Impact

By Sherri Pancer Wolf '90

When I was a first-year in 1986, women's presence at the College was still a recent development; the first fully coeducational class had enrolled just three years before. Since then, I've been continually impressed by women's profound impact on the school. The Alumnae Legacy Circle, created in 2017 to enhance female-driven philanthropy at Columbia, epitomizes this influence. With its membership now at 153, the ALC this past year raised $5.9 million, with $2.1 million directly supporting the College.

A similar impact can be seen through Columbia College Women. Two key themes underpin its efforts: connections and continuity. CCW connects alumnae to the school and to each other through programming, mentoring and networking. Its partnership with the Odyssey Mentoring Program's Lunch & Learn series brings students together with alumnae who work for prominent brands like Disney and the WNBA. Its annual Signature Event draws hundreds of attendees each year to hear alumnae such as *New York Times* journalist Jodi Kantor '96, former CNN anchor Poppy Harlow '05 and Olympian Katie Meili '13.

This year, CCW will be led by Nancy Pak '90, BUS'95, an accomplished CEO and global business leader. We asked Nancy, along with other CCW leaders, to tell us about their roles, what's been meaningful about their participation in CCW and what has them excited for this year.

NANCY PAK '90, BUS'95

I am honored to be the newest CCW president. My formative years were shaped by the lasting friendships I made at the College, and being part of CCW has enabled me to reconnect with and expand my alumnae network. I am excited to continue the group's positive work in mentoring, programming, and outreach and development; serving our alumnae and community; and giving back to alma mater, as it's the place where I discovered my identity as a student, person and leader.

I look forward to working with CCW's Executive Board to expand our impact by partnering with Columbia's other alumnae organizations and engaging alumnae across the United States and beyond. Mentorship is a deep passion of mine; I've had many inspiring female mentors and I hope to champion this part of CCW's work, as well as to be a role model for graduates across generations.

The most rewarding part of participating in CCW has been connecting with alumnae through impactful programs such as our annual Signature Event. In recent years, it has featured inspiring female entrepreneurs and women who work in sports and related fields, driving connectivity and offering valuable life lessons.

KENYATTA MONROE-SINKLER '91

When I think of CCW, I think of women who are brilliant, impactful and engaged. Serving as co-chair of the Outreach Committee has given me reason and opportunity to meet alumnae from many walks of life: producers, educators, CEOs, writers, entrepreneurs, activists and more. As women, our history as College alumnae spans less than 50 years, yet we've made our mark on all facets of the Columbia community.

As a Californian, I have most treasured getting to meet College women who live and work in the San Francisco Bay Area. Earlier this year, when a small group of us gathered at the Oakland Museum of California, the conversation was rich and nourishing. I look forward to creating events that meet our graduates where they are. Again and again I hear that people are craving community, and in that spirit, this year, alumnae can look forward to events in Northern California that will give them an opportunity to celebrate who we are.

LAUREN DWYER '11, BUS'16

I am a board member and serve on the Mentoring Committee. I'm excited that we are taking a holistic approach with the committee this year, to serve students and alumnae alike. Mentoring is helpful at every stage in one's career and life, so we want to ensure we are providing access to College women of all ages.

For me, it's been a rewarding part of the CCW experience to see the integration with and celebration of women's sports, both at Columbia and beyond. Sports are a microcosm of society, so learning from the growth and progress of women's sports can unlock ideas in other industries, and celebrating women's success in sports shows us what equity can look like in other arenas. We have made many strides, so things are better than they were five, 20, 50 years ago, but we still have significant work to do to reach equity. As we celebrate that progress, we must also generate energy to power the next big vision.

bookshelf

I, Radiologist, and The Evolution of Medicine in 'West' West Broward Country, Florida *by Dr. James Marsh Sternberg '58.* Sternberg details how he established a medical practice in what was formerly a deserted part of South Florida (AuthorHouse, $18.99).

Belief or Unbelief: The Mystery of God in the Light of Reason *by Joseph Ramos '59.* Ramos, an economist and professor emeritus at the University of Chile, considers arguments for and against the existence of God (Wipf and Stock, $29).

Making Room for the Disavowed: Reclaiming the Self in Psychotherapy *by Paul Wachtel '61.* In this text for practicing clinicians and students, Wachtel illuminates how a therapeutic approach anchored in the present can help heal the wounds of the past (The Guilford Press, $49).

The Eleventh Grieve *by Garth Hallberg '64.* Bestselling author James Patterson calls Hallberg's latest novel "a clever, compelling fable that puts a new spin on global warming and the fate of our small planet" (Reason for Everything, $12.95).

Shaped By Shadows: A Psychiatrist and Poet Explores His Holocaust Heritage *by Dr. Joseph Henry Albeck '66.* In poetry and prose, Albeck, a child of Holocaust survivors, sheds light on the struggles and shadows that shaped his life (independently published, $29.99).

To Save the Earth, Work Less!: The Crucial Environmental Issue No One Is Talking About *by Charles Siegel '67.* Siegel demonstrates how countries like The Netherlands have created a sustainable economy by letting employees work fewer hours (Omo Press, $12.95).

Memoirs of Thirty Years in the Classroom: Public, Private and Parochial *by Michael Gilbride '76.* In this blend of professional autobiography and personal memoir, Gilbride reflects on three decades as a New York City teacher and school psychologist (BookBaby, $25).

Unspooled: How the Cassette Made Music Shareable *by Rob Drew '83.* By telling the cassette's long and winding history, Drew establishes how sharing them became an acceptable and meaningful mode of communication (Duke University Press, $26.95).

The Race to Zero: How ESG Investing Will Crater the Global Financial System *by Paul Tice '83.* Tice, a longtime Wall Street analyst, argues against the practice of "sustainable investing" that is based on environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors (Encounter Books, $32.99).

All the Scattered Pages *by Dr. Jared Gollob '85.* In Gollob's first play, a found travel diary dramatizes what might have happened on a London couple's visit with Mozart's widow, Constanze, in 19th-century Salzburg (BookBaby, $10.99).

Griffinology: The Griffin's Place in Myth, History and Art *by A.L. (Anne) McClanan '89.* Drawing on historical and literary sources, McClanan, a professor of art history at Portland State University, shows how the griffin — half lion, half eagle — has represented power, transcendence and divinity for more than 5,000 years (Reaktion Books, $40).

Born in Blood: Violence and the Making of America *by Scott Gac '95.* Gac illustrates a political culture of violence from the American Revolution to the Gilded Age, showing how physical force has sustained central tenets of government (Cambridge University Press, $29.95).

Anxiety Aesthetics: Maoist Legacies in China, 1978–1985 *by Jennifer Dorothy Lee '00.* Lee, a professor of East Asian art at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, examines emergent creative practices in the aftermath of the Mao era (University of California Press, $34.94).

Peanut in a Poncho *by Debra Chow '01.* A whimsical illustrated tale of a hoarding peanut who enlists friends to help declutter his life (Double Scoops Press, $24.99).

Swing By!: Entertaining Recipes & the New Art of Gathering *by Stephanie Nass '13.* In her first book, Nass, a chef, caterer and founder of the lifestyle brand Chefanie, shares everything she knows about giving parties (Rizzoli, $45).

The World After Alice: A Novel *by Lauren Aliza Green '17.* Green's debut novel tells the story of two families who come together to celebrate a wedding 12 years after a tragedy upended all of their lives (Penguin, $23.94).

— Jill C. Shomer

SUBMIT YOUR BOOK TO *CCT*

Alums! Have you written a book in the last year? Tell us about it!

college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_bookshelf

lions

By Anne-Ryan Sirju JRN'09 *Illustrations by Mallory Heyer*

Francesca Hoffman '05

The Hudson Valley just got a lot more fun, and it's thanks to **Francesca Hoffman '05.** In April, Hoffman opened Unicorn Bar, a queer-forward performance venue, bar and eatery in Kingston, N.Y. "I got tired of ad hoc getting together; I wanted to give the queer community a permanent home," she says. "The community here has grown significantly in the last few years, especially since the pandemic, and I guess I was the only person crazy or ballsy enough to try to make it happen."

Hoffman moved to the Hudson Valley seven years ago and got to know the area through a beverage tour company she founded, which took groups to local wineries, breweries and distilleries. She had visited the space that Unicorn Bar now occupies in its previous incarnation, but it had been vacant for four years when she started negotiations to move in.

In the short time it's been open, Unicorn Bar has proven popular. Hoffman hosts a variety of events to appeal to diverse crowds — she notes, "We're queer forward and queer run, but not queer exclusive; we're hetero friendly!" Events so far have included Honky Tonk night, live piano singalongs, karaoke, a cumbia salsa performance, burlesque night and other dance parties. It also hosts weddings and other private events.

"I really see Kingston and the Hudson Valley becoming more of a queer destination," Hoffman says. "There's definitely been an 'If you build it, they will come' kind of thing. Now those who are thinking about moving here will know that there is a space for them."

Taimur Malik '11

In 2016, **Taimur Malik '11** was the interim CEO of a Pakistani textile mill when a weevil infestation devastated the country's cotton industry. Malik learned that the genetically modified seeds used by most Pakistani cotton farms were especially susceptible to infestation. He thought back to other disasters that had struck his country, like the 2010 floods that left roughly 20 million people homeless and the subsequent heatwaves that wreaked further havoc on Pakistan's crops. These events opened his eyes to the risks of non-organic farming and climate change. He decided to take action, launching a large-scale, regenerative farm in Pakistan's Thal Desert to show that making local changes can have a big environmental and economic impact.

The 600-acre farm, which sits on land owned by Malik's father-in-law, is now a testing ground for Malik's "biology- and ecology-first approach toward farming." Thousands of trees and shrubs act as hedgerows, which naturally protect the farm (crops include mango, citrus, sunflowers, sugar cane, wheat and garbanzo beans) from flooding and windstorms. The farm practices the regenerative method of intercropping, in which two crops are planted together to diversify their natural protections from insect infestations. Fungi is critical to the project's success; the farm is the largest compost-producing system in Pakistan, resulting in a fungally dominant compost that aids in carbon sequestration.

"Organic farming done right can give you a yield bomb of 30 percent, on average — in some cases more," Malik says. His passion has led to consulting work for the World Bank, where he and his colleagues are tracking positive economic impacts of regenerative agriculture around the world to show how the method is a win-win for both farmers and the environment.

Mala Iqbal '95

For Brooklyn-based artist **Mala Iqbal '95,** art is a pure form of storytelling. Iqbal is a 2023 recipient of the Joan Mitchell Fellowship, an unrestricted grant of $60,000 distributed across five years given to 15 U.S.-based artists. She is using the grant to delve into a series of paintings and drawings that represent her recollections of family stories, exploring her multicultural upbringing through her art. She says that her works are often ambiguous pieces open to personal interpretation

Growing up, Iqbal says she was a "slightly withdrawn, awkward kid" who loved reading and drawing. Now, her hometown of New York City is her muse, and she takes inspiration for her work from the people around her. "I'm one of those people on the subway and the bus who is always drawing my fellow New Yorkers," she says.

Recipients of the fellowship also receive professional development and attend artist meet-ups that facilitate community building and peer learning. Iqbal has already attended a convening of Joan Mitchell Fellowship artists in New Orleans, with more meet-ups planned for the coming years.

Iqbal has also been hard at work creating a variety of works — including a 6 foot by 8 foot painting — for a solo show at the JJ Murphy Gallery on the Lower East Side, which opens in October. She likes to incorporate mythology or folklore references into her work, and looks forward to creating an "open-ended narrative" for her audience to interpret freely as she continues to explore new ways to tell her story.

Tim Kelly '89

Native Chattanoogan **Tim Kelly '89** loves his hometown. He returned to Tennessee after graduation determined to make a difference and, as mayor, he's doing just that, presiding over the city as it undergoes a financial and cultural boom. "It's an honor and a privilege to be mayor at a time like this," he says.

Running for mayor was Kelly's first foray into government work. Frustrated with the divisive tenor of national politics, he wanted to cultivate change locally. He was elected in 2020 with 59.9 percent of the vote, and was sworn in on April 19, 2021. "It was of my way of coping," Kelly says. "To just focus on making Chattanooga the best city it could possibly be."

Kelly has had another important impact on the city: In 2009, he brought professional soccer to the region by co-founding Chattanooga FC. The team has proven popular, with some of the highest fan attendance numbers in its league.

Equality and equity are major values for Kelly, who launched a strategic plan, One Chattanooga, in his early days in office to create a stronger, more unified city. The plan's goals include improvements to infrastructure and public transit, building affordable housing, closing racial gaps in public health programs, and making efforts to boost local and regional economies.

He's proud of what the city has achieved under the plan so far, including the creation of an affordable housing fund, a down payment assistance program and a co-response unit to help with homelessness. "I'm determined to make Chattanooga a better, healthier and more vibrant city," Kelly says.

classnotes

JENNA BASCOM PHOTOGRAPHY

A sunbeam peeks through the leaves over Van Am Quad as fall arrives on campus.

Class Notes are submitted by alumni and edited by volunteer class correspondents and the staff of *CCT* prior to publication. Opinions expressed are those of individual alumni and do not reflect the opinions of *CCT*, its class correspondents, the College or the University. By submitting to Class Notes, you acknowledge that the text is eligible to appear in print as well as on *CCT* online and in archives.

1956

Robert Siroty
rrs76@columbia.edu

Leo Glass has retired from the practice of law in Monticello, N.Y., where he has also been an interim judge.

Bob Lauterborn completed his most satisfying and productive term as president of University of North Carolina Retired Faculty and Professionals Association. He also wrote of a trip with his younger son that took them 4,000 miles along the entirety of Route 66, from Chicago to Santa Monica. He found it thrilling.

1957

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Thank you to the following alumni, who responded to our call for updates.

Alan Brown writes: "I continue to live in Manhattan's Lincoln Square on Broadway, precisely 50 blocks from Broadway and 116th street. I recently returned from a trip with my partner, whom I had known prior to meeting my wife, who is now deceased. We visited London, Florence and Bellagio on Lake Como. I'd been to all those places before but thought this was a good time for a last hurrah.

"As are many of you, I am distressed at the turn of events at alma mater. I removed my class ring when I received a communication from the University president on Oct. 9 that failed to include the words 'condemn' or 'Hamas.' It went downhill from there. I hope the trustees and the president will see the light and take measures to keep safe all University students and faculty. It's not a tall order but will require a modicum of courage."

Michael A. Ferragamo writes, "I have been retired from active urological practice for more than 27 years. For the last 25 I have lectured on urological billing and coding for urological services. For this I have traveled all over the United States, lecturing in many states and at many urological departments. At the present I have finally retired for health reasons but am doing well. I would love to hear from classmates, especially anyone who played 150-pound lightweight football during 1955, 1956 and 1957. Telephone is 516-741- 0118 and e-mail is liqgold2@aol.com."

Please share your updates with us and with your classmates by email or by using the online webform college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

1958

Peter Cohn
petercohn1939@gmail.com

As I filed this column in June, the campus is quiet after the ugly spring disturbances and I hope, as you are reading this report in the fall, the campus remains calm.

With this somber note to begin our Class Notes, I move on to another sad subject, the notification of the deaths of two classmates. **Carl Stern** informed me of the passing of **Stan Schachne** SEAS'59. Stan was part of the five-year combined College and Engineering program. Carl writes that "he was an industrial engineer and noted statistician who was employed by some of the largest communication companies and even the space program to manage quality control systems." [Editor's note: See "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct.]

Shortly before I filed this column, **Harvey Feuerstein** informed classmates that his good friend **Paul Herman** LAW'61 had died. Paul had a lifelong passion for Judaism, and with his wife, Malka, and their children celebrated Jewish holidays and maintained a traditional home. In 1972 Paul became a partner at Herrick, Feinstein, where he chaired the Trusts and Estates group for more than 40 years before retiring in 2023. He had many cultural interests and supported numerous charitable causes. Condolences are extended to his wife and family. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct.]

I would like to end this report on an upbeat note. As many of you know, I follow Columbia Athletics avidly, and the rewards are often few and far between. But in the 2023–24 season, in addition to the women's basketball team winning an Ivy League championship and both men's and women's fencing teams also becoming champions, once again the spring saw the baseball team and the men's tennis team do the same, with the latter advancing to the NCAA Tennis Tournament quarterfinals for the first time in CU history.

1959

Norman Gelfand
nmgc59@hotmail.com

Thanks to the cooperation of the Alumni Office, and the superb efforts of the volunteer Reunion Committee (in alphabetical order: **Sam Bahn, Norman Bernstein, Stephen Buchman, Stan Feld, Jack Kahn, Paul Kantor, Bennet Silverman, Herb Stern, Michael Tannenbaum, Alvin Thaler** and **Ralph Wyndrum**), the Class of 1959 had its 65th anniversary reunion.

Steve Buchman sent a description. "First, as we think about where we are, and what we're doing, we should thank **Norman Gelfand** for his tireless efforts over these many years. He has done as much as anyone to help us keep in touch, and informed, about where we're at, who is where and who we've lost. Thank you, Norm; we would be much less of a class without you."

Thank you; it has been a labor of love.

Steve continues: "Our 65th reunion is over, and, as these later ones tend to be, bittersweet. Our numbers were spare, but the spirit of all who attended was engaged, and even feisty at times. The Zoom/live combination of our two programs allowed more of us to connect than would have otherwise been possible. Our dinner at the Penn Club gathered about 25 of us, with **Steve Trachtenberg** as guest speaker. As usual, he did not disappoint and provided a continuity of perspective and presence that is a hallmark of these gatherings. We also had the pleasure and honor of having Dean Josef Sorett join us. He delivered formal remarks and, in an act of braveness, opened the floor to questions. Classmates did not disappoint, asking about the state of the campus, how the recent incidents could be tolerated and how future demonstrations of this kind might be better handled. The dean's appearance was cut short as he had to get back up to campus to address another challenge: A small tent city had sprung up again.

"So another milestone is behind us, and fewer of us were there to mark its passing. But those who were there celebrated the event in the spirit that marks us, and, probably, most Columbia College alumni: involved, engaged, not hesitant to speak their minds and still looking forward as much as backward."

My estimate is there were 20–25 participants in each of the remote sessions. Since some classmates participated in one of the remote sessions but not the other, I would guess that approximately 30–35 classmates participated remotely and about 25 more were at the class dinner, so our total participation was 55–60.

Among the online participants was **Stan Keller:** "One of our class seminars was about memories of Columbia College and how it affected our subsequent years, but given current circumstances and controversies it actually focused on the role and responsibility of the University in addressing current events and controversies.

"To get to the punchline, I have had a successful and rewarding career, which is continuing, as a large firm corporate and securities lawyer, during which I have handled interesting projects and transactions and have contributed to the development of the law. The point is that I give Columbia a great deal of credit for enabling me to have this successful career, enhanced by a meaningful and cultural life as an involved citizen and patron. I began at Columbia in 1955 as a rather unsophisticated commuter from the Bronx who quickly realized how much was being missed by not living on campus and remedied that. The Core Curriculum and the emphasis at that time on teaching by the faculty, no matter how prominent they might be, gradually, despite my limitations, began the process of growth and development of the raw material that entered the Morningside Heights campus. What could be better than learning Humanities from Moses Hadas, who looked like he knew Plato personally; or Lionel Trilling CC 1925, GSAS'38 for contemporary American literature; or Henry Steele Commager for the Civil War; or my mentor, Walter Metzger GSAS'46, who was an associate of Richard Hofstadter GSAS'42, for early 20th-century American history, etc.? Added to this was the venue of Columbia in New York City, which created a world of opportunities to experience the arts and cultural institutions. I credit my Columbia experience with allowing me to get into Harvard Law, to succeed there and to carry that forward into private legal practice.

"It is therefore with great fondness that I remember our four years at Columbia, a mere 65 years ago, and wish that the current student body is able to have similar benefits."

If I (**Norman Gelfand**) may be allowed to add a few words, I usually sum up my undergraduate years in the College by saying, "I knew a lot less when I left than when I came." I learned a lot as a student at Columbia, not only in my physics courses,

Submit a Class Note or Photo
CCT welcomes news, updates and photos from Columbia College alumni.
SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE
• If your class has a correspondent, email them at the address at the top of your column.
• If CCT handles your class, email cct@columbia.edu (please indicate your class year).
• All classes may submit using the online webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.
SUBMIT A PHOTO
• Photos must feature at least two College alumni for Class Notes, and one for Just Married, as long as the alum is a member of the couple.
• All photos must be submitted using the online webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.
• Photos that do not meet the size parameters for print will run online.

where I was taught by at least four Nobel Prize winners, but also from those young instructors just beginning their ascent up the academic ladder. The more I learned, the less I knew. Old ideas of good and bad now had nuanced meanings. I was and remain far less certain even now that left to myself, I could solve all the world's problems.

As a manager for the football and wrestling teams I met an amazing cohort of young men whom I never would have met had I just taken the subway home (I was a commuter for most of my time in the College) to study. My activities with Athletics enriched my life as much as hearing Bach or reading Hegel.

Steve Wolfson writes, "Thirteen years ago, I was privileged to be among the founders of Project Access-New Haven (PANH). With funding from the medical staffs of the local hospitals, we established an office and hired patient navigators. We have since managed the care of hundreds of uninsured patients in New Haven County, and the physicians and hospitals have offered their services free of charge. To date, we have managed the equivalent of $85,000,000 in free care for this patient population. Everyone has benefited. Obviously, the patients, but also the physicians and the hospitals. Patients who once were simply a burden now come with their records, if necessary, a translator and with assurance that patients will be educated about the health care system. The usual 'no-show' rate at clinics is 20 percent. For PANH patients, the average is 2 percent.

"Our patients' reactions have been heartwarming, and that has been sufficient reward."

From **Charles Raab** we hear, "My wife, Gillian, and our family, including grandchildren, are all quite well. Gillian and I are still involved in academic work (but no teaching) and related pursuits in academia and the public sector, including research, conferences and advisory work on government bodies in the United Kingdom, including Scotland, and other countries. I keep up my activities in painting and drawing and have dipped my toe into art history with the recent publication of a journal article. We are also involved in our thriving liberal Jewish congregation in Edinburgh. I keep up with classmates and old friends (since Music & Art H.S. days) **Peter Coleman** and **Steve Buchman**; also, **Ben Janowski**. We met in New York a few years ago for a memorable personal 'reunion' lunch."

Go to this column online at college.columbia.edu/cct to read a note from **Jerry Friedland**.

1960

REUNION 2025
MAY 29–31

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Thank you to those who responded to our call for news and updates. We did not have space for all the notes we received this time so some will be online and others will be in the next issue, Winter/Spring 2025; please see the end of the column.

John Gubbings writes, "There are two classmates I would very much like to hear from: Ken Villanueva (my freshman roommate who left NYC before graduating) and **Pete Phillips**. There are others who were in SAE fraternity, but their names escape me now. This fraternity was mostly Korean War vets who enjoyed playing rough flag football with other fraternities. I joined because they were friendly.

"I am retired from the Navy; picked up an M.P.A. (management information systems and systems analysis) while there and from Lockheed Martin. I am married for the third time, now to Catherine Knapper (her maiden name). She was a research chemist at the NIH when I met her. My two daughters and four grandchildren are well and happy living nearby, except for a grandson with the forestry service in Idaho and a granddaughter with Booz Allen in Florida.

"Some classmates might have met my first wife, Joyce Symes. Unfortunately she died of leukemia in 1966 at Bethesda Naval Hospital when our daughters were 2.5 and 5.

"I volunteer with Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church, Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice and International Association for Religious Freedom (U.S. chapter). I am remarkably healthy with nothing known threatening my health except Factor V Leiden, a genetic blood clotting condition for which I take Eliquis. I have extra bedrooms and would be glad to meet classmates passing through who might remember me. I am in Bethesda, Md., five blocks from a Metro stop. My email is jgubbings@verizon.net."

Peter Schweitzer wrote in June: "I'm sailing on the *World*, a residents-owned ship that sails around the world every two years. I am married to Anne McBride. We live in Palm Beach, Fla."

James Scala writes, "At 90, I often reflect on a life well lived. My thoughts always return to Columbia College. Married, and on the Korean GI Bill, I faced catching up in the academics; I now realize the Core Curriculum was beyond excellent. With a concentration in chemistry and a good record I received an excellent fellowship in nutritional biochemistry at Cornell University. By then we had a son and another on the way. In graduate school I soon realized what helped me most was that CC's science courses provided a solid understanding of the basics, making graduate school a cinch.

"Armed with a Ph.D. I was soon working in nutrition. I was a professorial lecturer at Georgetown University School of Medicine for 20 years. I worked on the Apollo program, especially with Alan Shepard, the U.S. Olympic Ski Team for two Olympic Games and three Mount Everest climbs, including the first North Face Expedition. I wrote eight books on nutrition and co-authored six more. One book for people with Crohn's Disease earned me an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Hofstra University. I also taught at UC Berkeley and made a video, *The Nature of Nutrition*, which is in the U.S. Olympic Headquarters.

"When I reflect on these accomplishments my thoughts always return to the fine professors who provided me with an exceptional understanding of the basics. But it was not only science. In Humanities I learned to value symphonic music and literature. Since we are San Francisco Bay Area residents, we patronize the San Francisco Symphony, and every concert brings my thoughts to Music Humanities.

"I am thankful for the day when Bernard Ireland CC 1931, GSAS 1935, the College admissions officer, after my interview said, 'If you can land those single engine planes at 140 miles per hour you can make it through Columbia College; you're accepted.' On reflection it was the most rewarding moment in my life."

Dr. **Geoffrey H. Basson** writes, "About 20 percent of our class, perhaps 120 or so, were pre-med, and I'm still practicing part time in my obscure specialty of neuro-ophthalmology at Einstein/Montefiore in the Bronx. Taking care of patients remains as interesting and as emotionally rewarding as ever, and training the students and residents — kids in their 20s for the most part — keeps me alert. My wife and I recently celebrated (quietly) our 60th anniversary; we met as medical students, I got lucky, and we've gone through life together. She's a retired neurologist and would still be practicing if not for physical limitations. We go to the theater and concerts, have dinner with friends, and life is OK! Outside of medicine, I like reading history and science, and I'm a half-decent amateur pianist with a Chopin passion (my brother, Stephen '59, became a virtuoso bassoonist and is retired from a successful symphony orchestra career, but I was too lazy to practice when we were kids, so an amateur I remain).

"Our class has a regularly scheduled Zoom at noon on the first Thursday of the month, which I can join on my lunch break unless things are crazy in the clinic. There are a handful of regulars, but all are welcome.

"Best wishes to all Columbians, not just my surviving classmates!"

Leonard Berkman writes, "As Smith College's Anne Hesseltine Hoyt Professor of Theatre, I'm in my 56th year on the faculty and as head of our Master of Fine Arts in Playwriting program. Most recent publications: my essay on Euripides' *Herakles* in *Theatre Responds to Social Trauma: Chasing the Demons*, edited by Ellen W. Kaplan; short story *Cordelia Lear*, memoir *A Beef Stew for Shakespeare* and short story *My Student*, in sequential issues of *The Massachusetts Review*. *Cordelia Lear* became a film script directed by James Barry, co-artistic director of Chester Theatre Company in the Berkshires, and stars Hero Marguerite. An hour-length televised interview, launching the Holyoke, Mass., public television broadcast series, *And Now ...* (embarrassingly titled in this instance *And Now ...*

COLUMBIA SCHOOL DESIGNATIONS

BC	Barnard College
BUS	Columbia Business School
CP	Pharmaceutical Sciences
DM	College of Dental Medicine
GS	School of General Studies
GSAPP	Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation
GSAS	Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
HN	Institute of Human Nutrition
JRN	Graduate School of Journalism
JTS	Jewish Theological Seminary
LAW	Columbia Law School
LS	Library Service
NRS	School of Nursing
PH	Mailman School of Public Health
SEAS	The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science
SIPA	School of International and Public Affairs
SOA	School of the Arts
SPS	School of Professional Studies
SW	School of Social Work
TC	Teachers College
UTS	Union Theological Seminary
VPS	Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons

Len Berkman) soon followed and is now also on YouTube.

"As resident dramaturg for New York Stage and Film's summer season of new plays since 1990, I was invited onto its Review Panel of 20 to help select its next artistic director, who takes NYSAF's helm later in 2024 after the current season under Liz Carlson's superb years of interim leadership. My dramaturgical involvement extended through the later spring months of 2024 to People's Light and Theatre Co. in Philadelphia/Malvern, Pa., for the rehearsals and production readying of Joseph Dougherty's latest play, *Off By One,* directed by Abigail Adams with her excellent cast led by stage and film luminary David Strathairn, People's Light celebrates its 50th anniversary season in 2024–25 and for the past several years, my son Zak has been its artistic director. Patricia McGregor and Colman Domingo's *Lights Out: Nat 'King' Cole,* a production on which I previously assisted at People's Light and then traveled to Los Angeles' Geffen Playhouse, is set to open at the New York Theatre Workshop in the East Village with its original stars, Dulé Hill and Daniel J. Watts, as Cole and as Sammy Davis Jr., respectively, in spring 2025.

"Meantime, I also continue to write what my editors have termed 'performance stories,' seven of them *in toto* this this past year, each 'told' by one or two individual voices, evoking key characters in their lives through their distorted lens. I'm especially excited, too, by the array of my past and current students who have been thriving in both public and private realms, most visibly this past year Liev Schreiber in the Broadway revival of John Patrick Shanley's *Doubt* and Jenna Augen in a series of prominent dramas in London's West End: *Leopoldstadt, Nachtland* and *Kyoto*, traveling with the British cast of Tom Stoppard's *Leopoldstadt* as it transferred to Broadway."

Eric L. Gans notes, "Columbia was a very different place when I graduated. I never would have dreamed that one day the campus would be invaded by people shouting antisemitic slogans! *Am Yisrael chai!*"

Daniel Schwartz writes, "I recently learned that Dr. **Vincent Russo** passed away. He lived in Newbury, Mass., and practiced there in general surgery for many years. He was active in local politics and finished his medical career as a Joint Commission physician examiner. He leaves behind four children and many grandchildren." [Editor's note: Please see "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct.]

Please go to this column online at college.columbia.edu/cct to read notes from **Sidney Feinleib** GSAS'61 and **Art Delmhorst** BUS'64. News from **Peter Phillipes** and **Thad Long** will be in the next issue.

Please share your updates with us and with your classmates by email or by using the online webform college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

1961

Michael Hausig
mhausig@yahoo.com

Dave Furman is an avid bicyclist. He reached 21,000 miles on his bike odometer in May. Only 3,201 miles to go and he will have bicycled the circumference of Earth at the equator! A photo of Dave, Bill Burley '63 and Bill's wife, Suzanne, can be seen in the column online at college.columbia.edu/cct.

Stuart Newman LAW'64 retired from his law practice in December 2023. As senior counsel at the firm Offit Kurman, however, he continues to make himself available to clients who keep calling. Aside from having more time to fish, Stuart is writing his family's history and his autobiography for the benefit of his six grandchildren.

Gene Milone continues to attend online astronomy conferences as well as online seminars and lectures on a variety of subjects. An April conference, "(Toward) Discovery of Life Beyond Earth and Its Impact," was a thoroughly enjoyable discussion of scientific as well as social issues arising from such contact. In a conference on dynamical astronomy, Gene chaired six scientific sessions "to connect written questions and comment with Zoom speakers. It was a very interesting if hectic operation!" A paper Gene co-authored, dealing with mass exchange in a class of eclipsing binary stars, has appeared in print along with an entry he wrote in the *Biographical Encyclopedia of Astronomers* on Paul W. Merrill, who began his studies in the field a century ago, as one of the pioneers in eclipsing binary analysis.

Gene continues to be a member of the Heritage Committee of the Canadian Astronomical Society and participated in the society's hybrid meeting in June. He provided a report on the 50th anniversary celebrations of the Rothney Astrophysical Observatory, which he co-founded, and attended the hybrid meeting of the American Astronomical Society, and the International Astronomical Union in South Africa. It's a busy life!

Gene is emeritus professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

Bob Salman LAW'64 and his wife, Reva, won reelection to the Monmouth County Democratic Committee in the June primary. Assemblyman Herb Conway, for whom they worked, won the Democratic primary to succeed Rep. Andy Kim as their congressman. Kim, whom they also supported, won the Democratic primary for senator. They are deeply involved in the presidential race, and Bob remains an active member of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee. He looks forward to the challenge of handicapping the elections at our October class meeting.

Tom Lippman signed a contract for a new book, and working on it will fill most of his time for the next year or so. This book has nothing to do with the Middle East or Islam. He is writing about the life and times of Don Newcombe, the great pitcher for the Brooklyn Dodgers when we were teenagers. Tom writes that what is interesting about Newcombe is that he drank himself out of baseball but then sobered up and spent the last decades of his life back on the Dodgers payroll, helping other players beat alcohol and drugs.

Richard Zamoff GSAS'63, director of the Jackie Robinson Project, reports that the project recently moved from The George Washington University to the Tampa Bay International School in Clearwater, Fla. The JRP celebrates Robinson's often-overlooked role as an informal civil rights leader, social and community activist, and catalyst of the Civil Rights movement. Since 1996, the JRP's Educational Initiative has served 17,420 students and 720 teachers and administrators in 13 states, the District of Columbia and Japan. JRP staff visit schools, libraries, senior citizen centers, boys and girls clubs, churches and synagogues, and other community organizations to educate persons of all ages about Robinson's life and legacy and his continued relevance.

The JRP is supported entirely by private contributions and there is no

charge to any organization that participates in the program. Schools and libraries receive copies of the JRP's children's book, *Jackie Robinson: More Than a Baseball Player* (available in English and Spanish), and the JRP's documentary film *The First.* Site visits are now being scheduled for the 2024–25 academic year.

1962

John Freidin
jfreidin@gmavt.net

Dennis Wilder GSAS'63 has suggested that "the aging of us now in our 80s might be an interesting topic of discourse: How are we coping with older age? (Note: older, not old, age.) Midlife received a lot of attention years ago, but what about late life?"

I'll send all of you a prompt about this in the fall.

Steve Stein writes: "I hope, like many classmates, I'm in reasonably good health. Just a couple of meds for an underachieving thyroid and an overactive prostate plus a daily multivitamin and some vitamin C.

"Since retiring at the start of Covid-19 from full-time practice of interventional radiology, I lecture to radiology residents at two local hospitals, one in the Yale system and the other in the Hartford system. My wife, Linda, and I keep busy with kids and grandkids, theater locally and in NYC, walking with friends (including **Art Levy** and his wife, Betty), and going to movies and restaurants. We remain active members of our local conservative Jewish congregation (Beth El Norwalk) and attend a lot of Zoom meetings on the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.

"Sadly, we are perpetually disheartened by the bad press about acts of antisemitism happening locally, nationally, internationally and at many U.S. colleges, including Columbia.

"Oh, and I started sketching and doing watercolors at the beginning of Covid. Nothing for sale; I just send stuff to a local blog that publishes an art column every Saturday (06880DanWoog.com)."

Here's the link to a radio interview of **Anthony Valerio** about his most recent book, *Confessions of an Aspiring Pornographer* (bit.ly/3WyzwJq), which I mentioned in the Summer 2024 issue.

Dave Nathan and his wife, Nancy, recently attended a somber ceremony near Frankfurt, Germany, honoring a close relative, Max Bronne, killed by the Nazis 80-plus years ago. Dave described their experience in the March 30 issue of *The Post-Star*, his Glens Falls, N.Y., hometown paper.

For the last 15 years **Armando Favazza** has been seeing psychiatric patients one day a week, and he hoped to continue until he turned 90. "However," he writes, "I became a victim of technology. The programs I had to use became too much for me. My clinic lost three nurses and could no longer to assign one to help me with technology. So I retired fully and finally. That leaves me playing golf and going to the gym, each three times a week. I feel good, sleep well, cook great meals and enjoy good times with my wife. Thanks to our spacious home and gardens we host many birthday, anniversary and other parties."

Larry Gaston says, "I'm still on the right side of the grass, and I've noticed that those around me are also aging. That includes doctors, dentists, investment counselors, close friends and family members. Life now seems run by people in their 20s and 30s, and they don't care whether chairs have armrests! My wife of 60 years and I try not to worry about things we cannot control. On to infinity and beyond. Welcome to obscurity."

Roman Kernitsky reports, "My grandson was born on Feb. 16, and I will now be a babysitter. In May my son and I traveled to Scotland, which impressed me very much. As a Ukrainian-American I was delighted to see the Ukrainian flag flying atop the Scottish Parliament at the same level as the Union Jack and the Scottish St Andrew flags. However, the violent tactics of pro-Palestinian demonstrators in front of the Scottish Parliament upset me. To distract myself from these hectic times I frequently go flyfishing in the United States."

On May 31, at Casa Italiana on Amsterdam Avenue, the Columbia Engineering Alumni Association presented **Bob Lefkowitz** VPS'66 with the Michael Pupin Medal for service to the nation in science, technology, or engineering. The medal honors Michael I. Pupin CC 1883, who was a legendary teacher, inventor and engineer who taught at Columbia 1890–1931. Bob shared the award with Dr. Shu Chien GSAS'57, one of his professors at VPS.

Chris Haakon and his wife enjoy life in a northern Virginia boating community, where their three children and seven grandchildren also live. Chris stays active and sits on the boards of four companies and three trade associations. He writes: "I am disgusted by the demonstrations at Columbia and the lack of leadership in handling the rule breakers. I am curious how many demonstrators were from the College and how many were from outside or other parts of the University."

John Garman BUS'67 is grateful to have this opportunity to share where he is today and a bit about his four years at "one of the greatest universities in the world. Just touching my 84th year seems like an accomplishment beyond belief. My last major trip was a river cruise from St. Paul to New Orleans. It wasn't the best cruise I've taken, but it wound its way through lots of rich farmland, which not only feeds Americans but also the rest of the world.

"My wife, Nancy, and I are celebrating 54 years of marriage. We especially enjoy seeing our grandkids, who range from 5 to 22, graduate from grade school to college. [As I write this,] tomorrow we're flying to Minneapolis for the high school graduation of our oldest grandson, a world-class soccer player.

"I do miss the opportunities that came with my work to see and talk with a variety of people. That seems to have been a habit I acquired at Columbia, where I met enough classmates to be elected to one of the two student board seats for freshmen.

"At Columbia I met **Dick McKenna,** who became my three-year roommate in 1812 Hartley Hall. We were opposites: Dick a biology major and I a history and Oriental studies major. Dick would rise early to work out for crew and then do his paid job in the cafeteria for breakfast. I arranged my classes to start after 10:30 a.m. so I could stay up late playing poker with **Joe Leska,** Vernon Kidd '63, Richard Harbison '66 and others, and talk about politics, while Mac tried to sleep.

"Little did I know that we lived just down the hall from a fella, usually wrapped in a towel, who walked to the showers singing Bach. Very well, I'd add. It wasn't until I had finished my draft duties in the Army and returned to the Business School that I learned this fella was half of a renowned duet named Simon and Garfunkel!

"Dick and Richard and are no longer with us. Joe and Vernon seem so healthy they'll live to 100. I figure I'll be lucky to reach 85."

Bernie Patten VPS'66 reports: "Despite our best efforts, P.J. Patten, family cat, was not elected governor of Texas. She would have been a good governor because she is not plugged into the old-boy network that runs things, and she would never, ever have signed legislation limiting women's rights to health care or making it difficult for minority citizens to vote."

1963

Paul Neshamkin
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"These Class Notes have been hijacked by a large group of Class of 1963 alumni to express our great appreciation and affection for **Paul Neshamkin.** Paul has enriched our lives through his long and tireless efforts to bring and hold us together, first by establishing, implementing and taking responsibility for our regular lunch get-togethers and then for our ongoing twice-monthly Zoom meetings and our ongoing group internet conversations. He has also led the planning of the exceptional content of our reunions.

"Through his dedication to us and to Columbia we have enjoyed debating and respectfully disagreeing about everything from world events, the state of our union and happenings at Columbia, to the relative merits of Willie, Mickey and the Duke. We have also rekindled old friendships, made new ones,

Class Notes are submitted by alumni and edited by volunteer class correspondents and the staff of *CCT* prior to publication. Opinions expressed are those of individual alumni and do not reflect the opinions of *CCT*, its class correspondents, the College or the University. By submitting to Class Notes, you acknowledge that the text is eligible to appear in print as well as on *CCT* online and in archives.

marveled at the depth and breadth of each other's life achievements and continued engagement with the world, learned from each other, regained appreciation for our Columbia education and the experiences we enjoyed there, and have been able to forget that we are no longer young.

"At our graduation Dean David Truman challenged us to 'keep the faith' in an intellectual life and in each other. We believe Paul is unique in Columbia history for what he has done to hold our class together and to encourage us to hold fast to this goal."

Following is Paul's column:

If you'd like to stay in contact with classmates, join the Class of '63 Google Group. Many of us are here discussing the issues of the day (and occasionally exchanging jokes). Let me know if you're interested and we'll sign you up.

Jonah Raskin GSAS'64 writes, "Can't not think of Columbia these days and not be reminded of my time there, especially playing rugby for the Old Blues with Billy Campbell '62, TC'64; Dick Donelli '59, DM'63; John Wellington '57; Paul Zimmerman '58, JRN'59; **Tony Day** and others. We were an excellent team — a club, really — and came from all Columbia schools and branches. I might have been the only Jew on the team. It never was an issue. I moved from rural Sonoma County three years ago to San Francisco and live in the fog and the cold at the edge of the city."

Sidney Kadish writes, "I thought that I was the oldest grandfather in our class, but **Harvey Schneier** has one-upped me. My granddaughter, Aurelia F. Kadish, was born on Sept. 19, 2023. Her father is my son Michael '97. Harvey's grandchild was born March 7, 2024. Harvey and I share the feeling that while everyone else's grandchildren are graduating from high school or college or marrying, our grandchildren are learning to crawl. C'est la vie!"

Stanley Sperber GSAS'65 writes, "Hi from the very troubled Middle East. I'm still continuing with my dual careers of conducting and tennis umpiring (I'm the oldest internationally certified chair umpire on the planet); as a conductor I'm still a youngster at 82. Also, Amazon published my book describing interesting incidents in these two professions, *Between the Lines: My Stories as a Conductor and Tennis Umpire.*"

Carey Winfrey JRN'67 writes, "A book I commissioned and edited, *Key West Sketches: Writers at Mile Zero*, was published last September. It is a collection of essays, musings, reminiscences and poetry by the current crop of Key West writers (including Judy Blume, Meg Cabot and Thomas McGuane) about Key West. Author proceeds support the Key West house owned in the late '30s and early '40s by poet Elizabeth Bishop."

Alan Wallach GSAS'73 writes, "In November my book, *Trouble in Paradise: Twenty-Four Essays on the Social History of American Art*, will be published in hardcover. The essays date from 1977 to 2023; five have never been published. In November 2025, a paperback edition will be published.

"The 24 essays cover such topics as Thomas Cole, the Hudson River School, critical museum studies, historiographical reflections on American art, the social history of American art, Meyer Schapiro CC 1924's essay on style, the relation between art-historical scholarship and the market for American art, and include writings on artists Augustus Saint-Gaudens, Grant Wood, Rockwell Kent, Norman Rockwell and Philip Evergood.

"I taught for 22 years at the College of William & Mary, where I helped found the Ph.D. program in American studies. Since 1967 I have been teaching art history at colleges and universities including UCLA, Stanford, the University of Michigan, CUNY, Boston University, the University of Delaware and the Free University in Berlin. Right now, I am the Ralph H. Wark Professor of Art and Art History Emeritus and Professor of American Studies Emeritus at William & Mary and professorial lecturer at The George Washington University, where I have offered graduate seminars on the history of the art museum, the Hudson River School and American art from the 1930s to the1950s. In 2007, I received the College Art Association's award for Distinguished Teaching of Art History. Since 1988 I have been married to Phyllis Rosenzweig, curator (now emerita) at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden."

Robert Smith GSAS'65 celebrated his second bar mitzvah, on his 83rd birthday, in June. "I am still active in psychiatric research with NYU-Nathan S. Kline Institute for Psychiatric Research and publishing papers and also have a part-time private practice," he writes. "I attribute some of my success and health to my wonderful wife of 32 years, Sultana Ehrlich Smith. I am very disturbed by the anti-Israel and antisemitic incidents at Columbia this past year."

Stephen Honig writes, "I attended Harvard Law School (graduated in 1966) and have practiced corporate law in Boston for 58 years. I practice with Duane Morris as a senior corporate partner, representing onshore and offshore businesses, and attempt to nurture high-tech startups as a pro bono attorney.

"I have sat on charitable boards for many years, including terms with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts (my Little Brother turned 40!) and National Association of Corporate Directors, New England Chapter. I have been for a couple of decades pro bono counsel to The David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies, have been an officer and director of an area temple and presently sit on the board of the New England Poetry Club, founded in 1915 by Robert Frost, Amy Lowell and Conrad Aiken.

"I host readings by local poets in various New England locations and have read my own poetry at venues in New England and Paris. Our family has a place in Paris, which is our general vacation destination.

"In the latter part of my career, I have branched out from law to both invest in real estate and to publish my writings. I have published, to date, six collections of poetry, a book of short stories and a spy thriller novel.

"I reside in Newton, Mass., with my wife and, when he is not at Reed College in Portland, Ore., my youngest son. We have no intent to retire or move; my wife is a practicing lawyer in the Massachusetts courts. My other children are a daughter (a public service lawyer), a son (a fintech lawyer and my only child who attended Columbia, in his case the Law School) and another son (a professional arts photographer). My grandchildren are two: a graduate of the University of Vermont studying for a master's in cyber security (of course) and a junior at Colorado College studying the environment. They are way cool."

Mark Koppel writes that his friend since Columbia days, **Geoffrey Akst**, died of Parkinson's disease and ALS on March 5, 2024. Geoffrey taught at Borough of Manhattan Community College, where he became deputy chair, specializing in remedial mathematics for college students. He lived for many years in Murray Hill with his partner/husband of 55 years, William Wilcox, who survives him."

I received the sad news in May that **Henry Black** had died of complications of spinocerebellar ataxia and dementia. Henry was one of the regular attendees of our monthly lunches. I will miss his friendship and good company. [Editor's note: Please see "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct, for more on Akst and Black.]

Please go to this column online at college.columbia.edu/cct for a note from **Ken Ostberg.**

We continue to meet virtually on Zoom every first and third Thursday at 12:30 p.m. EDT. Let me know if you would like to join us, and I'll send you an invite. In the meantime, please let us know what you are up to, how you're doing and what's next. Stay safe, stay well!

1964

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As I sit down at the end of June to write this column, a 95-degree heat wave has settled on New York City and I have just finished reading the *New York Times* obituary of George M. Woodwell, who, in 1972, convened one of the first scientists' conferences on climate change.

It was already hot for reunion, held May 30–June 1, and campus security was tight. The 116th Street Gates were closed. Our class attendance was down. The Alumni Office did not arrange for a class-specific dinner. Instead, because we are past our 50th, we have been designated part of the "Golden Lions" and were grouped with other over-50th classes for dinner. Some classmates told me they would not travel to New York if there was not a separate dinner for the class. Others did not attend in protest of the way the University handled (or mishandled) recent campus events.

There was a spillover at reunion from recent events. The Alumni Office had set up two large tents on South Lawn for a Saturday lunch for all classes, but the tents were occupied (apparently on Friday night) by a pro-Palestinian group. The lunches were moved to a smaller tent on Low Plaza but that was so crowded that tables were set up in Low Rotunda to handle the overflow.

With the exception of the final dinner, at past reunions the class has prided itself in declining Alumni Office help and setting up our own events with our own speakers (classmates). Disappointed that the Alumni Office was not giving us a dinner this year, five classmates — **Peter Thall, Steve Rodner, Ezra Bialik, Steve Stander** and **Beril Lapson** — took action. They scoured Morningside Heights restaurants and reserved the Greek restaurant Symposium on West 113th Street for a class dinner on May 30. The following gathered at a table set up the length of the restaurant: **Peter Thall; Epraim Cohen; Beril Lapson** and his wife, Ellen BC'69; **Steve Solomon; Gil Kahn** and his wife, Bernice; **Howard Jacobson** and his wife, Kathryn; **Marty Weinstein** and his wife, Ruth; **Steve Stander; Ivan Weissman** and his wife, Jane; **Steve Rodner** and his wife, Judy; **John Langbein** and his wife, Kirsti; **Dave Levin; Steve Rock** and his wife, Judith; **Steve Savitt; Lionel Etra; Jack Ventura** and his wife, Stephanie; **Jerry Zuriff; Michael Sklaroff; David Blumenthal; Gary Schonwald** and **Ezra Bialik.**

It was a wonderful evening, and I thought the class had come full circle: After immersing ourselves freshman year in Homer, Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, Aristophanes, Thucydides and Herodotus, we gathered 60 years later at Symposium! Many thanks to Peter, Steve, Ezra, Steve and Beril, who made it possible.

Following Saturday's lunch in Low Rotunda, I joined seven others in a classroom in Havemeyer Hall for an open-mic session: **Dan Nussbaum** (with his wife, Beverly), **Marty Isserlis** (with his wife, Judy), **Beril Lapson, Ezra Bialik, Steve Rodner, Jack Ventura** (with his wife, Stephanie) and **Steve Rock.** Each of us spoke of our Columbia experience and of life after graduation. A theme emerged: how the Core Curriculum had affected our lives. To a person there was an expression of gratitude for the exposure to the Core, a gratitude that grew through the years as we met well-educated people from other colleges who had not had the Core experience.

Ivan Weissman reports, "I was the only person from our class who marched in the annual Alumni Parade of Classes on Class Day. It was very different from other years. The ceremony was held in the soccer stadium at Robert K. Kraft Field, instead of its usual location on South Lawn. Only two classes older than ours took part. Usually the older classes receive enormous applause from the graduates, but this year it was very subdued, seemingly because of the odd logistics and the general mood. The theme of the speeches was that the Class of 2024 had endured enormous stress, and handled it very well. Their freshman year was remote because of Covid-19, and their senior year ended remote because of the protests."

I had a reunion of sorts with **Peter Lowitt.** While walking in Manhattan's East Village I happened upon Peter and his wife, Deon, a social worker, eating lunch at a table on Second Avenue. The three of us chatted for an hour about many things, including Peter's friendship with Joe DiMaggio. Many years ago Peter walked into DiMaggio's restaurant in San Francisco, and after he told the maître d' he was a Yankees fan from New York he was introduced to DiMaggio, who invited Peter to have lunch with him. They remained good friends, and Peter has a wonderful 1965 photograph with DiMaggio in the locker room on Old Timers' Day at Yankee Stadium.

David Levine writes: "The Washington, D.C.-based Mini Lit Hum class is in its 10th year, continuing to read three books per semester under the guidance of Professor Patricia Grieve, who proposes a reading list for the semester based on the Lit Hum and Global Core curricula along with suggestions provided by class members. Currently participating are **Steve Case, Clark Hoyt, David Levine, Barry Shapiro** and **Jack Ventura;** four members of the Class of '65: Marty Blank, Charlie Schwartz, Neil Silver and Elliot Wolff; and one friend of Columbia: Cathy Dervis. The class meets at a law office venue provided by Steve, and Professor Grieve joins by Zoom."

Contact David at davidblev@aol.com if you are interested in joining.

Phillip Lopate has a book coming out, *My Affair with Art House Cinema: Essays and Reviews,* in addition to his essay collection published earlier in the year, *A Year and a Day: An Experiment in Essays.*

On recent events, from **Joel Magid:** "In October 1973, while teaching at Rutgers, I joined the second group of volunteers to go to Israel during the Yom Kippur War. I wound up staying on Kibbutz Be'eri for 26 years, raising my family, becoming general secretary of the kibbutz and returning to the United States in 1999. On Oct. 7, 2023, more than 50 of my friends, their children and even some of their grandchildren were killed in the brutal Hamas attack that also took many others prisoners to Gaza. My life since has been an addiction to the horrible news ... and, of course, depression. On a recent visit to Israel, I lit candles on too many graves and witnessed the destruction of too many homes as I listened to more stories of what happened that day.

"The sloganizing and often overt antisemitism of faculty as well as students on our campus as well as elsewhere is an insult to our Columbia education of rational discourse and attempts at understanding the complexity of controversial issues, and my depression has increased about the future of my two countries — U.S., of my birth and education, and Israel, where I spent half of my adult life. I try to escape the ugliness of the past and the future by reading fiction, and even rereading some of our Core Curriculum, which helped shape my mind more than 60 years ago. But my life has changed, and I can only wish classmates good memories and good health, mentally and physically, as we move through our 80s."

Go to this column online at college.columbia.edu/cct to read a note from **Michael Gunter.**

SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE

- If your class has a correspondent, email them at the address at the top of your column.
- If *CCT* handles your class, email **cct@columbia.edu** (please indicate your class year).
- All classes may submit using the online webform **college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.**

1965

REUNION 2025
MAY 29–31

Leonard Pack
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Barry Kamins was featured in a June 1 *New York Times* article about Rudolph Giuliani's 80th birthday party, held in a Manhattan restaurant over pasta and meatballs. Many of us are of similar age; in fact, I recall **Steve Hoffman** telling me that he was Giuliani's roommate at NYU Law. Referring to the former mayor's legal woes, the article reported, "Mr. Giuliani's bow-tied lawyer, Barry Kamins, stood outside and discussed his besieged client's state of mind: 'He's had great challenges, and I think it's amazing that under the pressure he's been under, he's been able to maintain his sanity in all of this. ... I know that we've tried to get people to come step up for him as character references, and a lot of people disappointed us, and he's been disappointed in them as well,' Mr. Kamins said."

My Summer 2024 column contained a report by **Chris Morren** on the death of **LeRoy Euvrard Jr.** I asked Chris to share with us some information about himself, and he provided this: "I retired from medical practice in 2015. For the past several years I have volunteered at Yale, mentoring medical students in the primary care clinic. The students are terrific, and I get a lot of satisfaction teaching them. My wife, Edie, and I live in Stonington, Conn. Both of our children live less than an hour from us, and we are quite involved in the care of our three grandchildren. Aside from the usual aches and pains that accompany

old age, I am in good health. I chair our town's Aging Commission, and volunteer at Mystic Seaport.

"I stay in touch with several classmates, including **Bill Wertheim, Curt Lynch, Pete Smith** and **Joe Beckmann.** I saw Jon Bauman '68 perform at the Mohegan Sun. As 'Bowzer,' Jon tours the country bringing back the old rock 'n' roll greats from our youth.

"Proud of our women's basketball team making it to the NCAA tournament.

"I'm hoping to see classmates at our 60th next year."

Bob Yunich has been a regular contributor to this column over the years. Here's his latest update: "Life has been extremely good! My wife, Joanne, and I celebrated our 45th wedding anniversary in London in May 2023. Two highlights were visiting Chartwell, the country estate of Sir Winston Churchill, near Westerham, Kent, in South East England, about an hour and a half drive. Churchill was an artist; his studio in a separate building on the grounds remains intact. His home was very simple; the surrounding gardens, particularly in the spring, were magnificent.

"We also saw a great musical, *Glory Ride.* It tells the true story about Gino Bartali, an Italian cyclist, a two-time winner of the Tour de France. He fought Mussolini's fascist regime and saved the lives of many Jewish Italian citizens.

"I celebrated my 80th birthday in Saratoga Springs, where, growing up, I enjoyed many happy times. We heard the Philadelphia Orchestra in concert at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center. We also visited Hildene, The Lincoln Family Home, in nearby Manchester, Vt. It was the country estate of President Lincoln's son, Robert Todd Lincoln. Manchester is another place from my youth. Robert chaired the Pullman Co., based in Chicago. He had his personal Pullman car (perhaps a precursor to private jets) to transport him and his family to Manchester. His Pullman car has been preserved on Hildene's grounds.

"I am very involved with volunteer activities with nonprofits. I'm in my fifth year as a trustee of the New York Youth Symphony. I am especially proud that the NYYS Orchestra won a Grammy, the first time for a youth orchestra, in 2023 for Best Orchestral Performance. The album was produced during the pandemic and released in April 2022.

"I've become involved with the Harvard Business School Club of New York's Community Partners program, which provides pro bono consulting and advisory services to New York City area nonprofits seeking assistance with business and management issues. My involvement has included approaches to increase charitable contributions from corporations, attracting lower-income students to the nursing professions and enabling justice-involved adults to access higher education and training programs while incarcerated and after reentry.

"Joanne and I were planning a trip to Dublin and London in September. Trout fishing remains a passion. However, mobility issues are hampering my ability to indulge."

Leonard Pack, as your correspondent, rarely has room to report on his own doings because of *CCT*'s space limitations. I'm still practicing law as an of counsel lawyer at Harris St. Laurent & Wechsler, in New York City. Since the pandemic, I've mostly been working remotely, and I'm finding I get a lot done and can still collaborate by phone, email and videoconferencing. Staying in touch with colleagues and clients, not to mention cajoling and sparring (i.e., negotiating) with opposing counsel, was a major sanity-preserver during the pre-vaccination, isolating days of Covid-19. And I find these activities are keeping me active and young in spirit.

My children and grandchildren live nearby (my oldest grandson went off to Vanderbilt this fall), so I can see them regularly. Emerging from isolation, my wife, Adele Weisman, and I began traveling more frequently. After an initial foray to Santa Fe, N.M., we spent two weeks in Tokyo and Kyoto in January 2023, just as Japan reopened to foreign visitors; a week in May 2023 in London, where we saw some great theater; and Cambridge, where we never miss Evensong, with the angelic King's College Choir in Cambridge; a trip in January 2024 to Havana, sponsored by the Joyce Theater, where we saw four amazing dance companies rehearsing and attended the Havana Jazz Festival, and a visit to Rome for my 80th birthday in February 2024, where we walked the ancient streets, saw astounding art and ate a year's supply of pasta.

I've been in touch with several classmates, including **Allen Brill** (who lives around the corner from me in our close-to-Columbia neighborhood), **Mike Cook, Ken DeWoskin, Niles Eldredge, Larry Guido, Bob Kronley, James Levy, Jim Murdaugh** (there's always dreadful weather in Houston to inquire about) and **Jim Siegel.**

I've been appalled by the bad news from Columbia this past spring. I was there in 1968, and it seems that neither the students nor the administrators have learned much since then.

Please let me hear from you!

1966

Martin Lee
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I am happy several CC'66ers wrote. As you will see, there are many subjects presented. That's the way we were and are now: diverse and with different points of view. Please enjoy.

Joseph Albeck writes: "All is well with me and my family in my 78th year. Retirement is a bit boring except for frequent contact with our four grandchildren, who live nearby. As mentioned in the Summer 2024 issue, I published an autobiographical paperback and ebook on Amazon last autumn: *Shaped by Shadows: A Psychiatrist and Poet Explores His Holocaust Heritage.*"

Neill Brownstein writes: "Hello, Columbia College Class of 1966. Turmoil on campus challenges too many of us who have clashing remembrances of 1968–70. And, from a very personal point of view, we have a granddaughter at Columbia, a junior. [As I write this in June,] she is wondering if she should return to Columbia this fall. Antisemitism was not visible to me in 1962–66. Today, our granddaughter's experiences — plural and often — suggest that virulent antisemitism is nurtured by faculty and amplified by too many other students. What a mess!"

Peter Crain had this to say: "Here's what's happening with my proprietary research. An analysis of data from my research survey, taken by 255 couples, 167 English-speaking in the USA and 88 Mandarin-added people, redefined as 'mental synchrony,' is a valid measure of relationship quality, cross-ethnically and culturally. After a couple completes and submits two 10-minute questionnaires, my algorithmic method automatically calculates scores of mental synchrony and its components for their relationship.

"I have constructed a prototype for an app that will assist users in finding relationships with the highest possible levels of mental synchrony. To implement, market and promote the app, I seek an investor or group of investors."

Geoff Dutton writes: "After 25 years renting in Belmont, Mass., my wife, Aygül, and I bought our first house in 2022, in Maynard. (I've always been a late bloomer.) Aygül is a research scientist in brain imaging at MIT and hopes to retire soon. Our awesome daughter Deniz is an M.Sc. student in biology at McGill, focused on biodiversity and carbon capture in soils. This past summer she interned for the UN Convention on Biological Diversity in Montreal.

"My second novel, *Her Own Devices,* published in September, follows and partly recapitulates my 2018 international conspiracy thriller, *Turkey Shoot,* telling the story of how a single mom who, after witnessing a child being kidnapped, becomes obsessed with bringing child traffickers to justice when the police don't seem to care. Both books are set in Piraeus, Greece, and feature colorful international casts of characters.

"Since retiring from the software biz in 2015, aside from writing books, I blog and emit a monthly newsletter online at perfidy.press. Please contact me there or at gdutton-at-joimail-dot-com to say hi and share what's up with you."

Ed Fink comments: "I was a Jewish kid from the Bronx, going to Columbia by subway. My major was sociology, and I had many outstanding teachers, including Daniel Bell, Serge Lang, Paul Lazarsfeld and Lionel Trilling CC 1925, GSAS'38. I am now the Laura H. Carnell Professor of Media and Communication at Temple University. Prior to joining the faculty at Temple, I was a doctoral student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and I have held faculty appointments at the University of Notre Dame, Michigan State University and the University of Maryland, College Park.

The last time I was at Columbia was for a conference of the International Association for Conflict Management, in 2016. I was able to see my old campus and its new developments; of course, both were great. At Maryland I was department chair for 10 years.

"My wife, Deborah A. Cai, professor and senior associate dean of Temple's Klein College of Media and Communication, and I live in Media, Pa., not too far from campus. I have greatly enjoyed teaching, focusing on research methods and persuasion and social influence. I have two wonderful daughters, Elana and Rebecca; three wonderful stepdaughters, Hana, Laura and Emily (recall Tevye's *Fiddler* declaration to God, 'I have five daughters!'); and three grandchildren. Columbia has given me a great education, and I have had a wonderful life. Thank you, and Roar, Lion, Roar!"

Michael Garrett has this to say: "I am pleased to report that I have survived a year of torture at the hands of the denizens of medicine. Although it breaks my recently repaired heart to say so, my diminished strength and agility, combined with the rigors of dialysis, have caused me to cut back my professional and cultural activities. However, the good news is that after 53 years in our Park Slope brownstone, we have moved to a brand-new, large, gracious villa in the Broadview Senior Living complex on the grounds of Purchase College in Westchester County. At the end of the day, I am grateful for the life I have and look forward to living it well. Roar, Lion, Roar!"

I hope you enjoyed reading this column as much as I did writing it. Please don't be shy; give us your thoughts about anything. Please enjoy the fall, and stay safe and well.

Go Lions and Lionesses.

1967

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We heard from five classmates for this issue.

Mossik Hacobian wrote: "My four years at Columbia College, three-plus years at the Architecture School; playing on Columbia's first winning soccer team; participating in the campus strike of 1968; and spending my junior year at the Architecture School in a community project in East Harlem, led to my moving to Boston to fulfill my conscientious objector service as a community organizer and help start a community newspaper and the East Boston Community Development Corp. I went on to renovate abandoned homes in East Boston, followed by 33 years at Urban Edge, another Boston CDC that developed and preserved more than 1,000 affordable homes and apartments. I am now concluding my tenure as executive director of Boston's Higher Ground, another nonprofit, focusing on education, early childhood development, eliminating student homelessness and improving educational outcomes for children and families in Boston."

Carl Prestfeldt: "I am retired from Murray State University and live in Murray, Ky. My wife of 54 years passed away in January 2022 as a result of Alzheimer's. I am involved with community theater and recently joined the local Democratic party. My two main leisure activities are reading and physical conditioning. One of my granddaughters-in-law is matriculating at St. John's College in Annapolis, and we have enjoyed some invigorating book discussions. Social media has enabled me to stay in contact with my three daughters, who live in Colorado, Arizona and Maryland. I have six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren."

Erich Kramer GSAS'69: "Having retired from a career in opinion and market research a few years ago, I'm aging in place in sunny Westchester County, just a few miles up the Hudson from Morningside Heights. Susan and I have the house to ourselves now, with our two daughters and a grandson fairly close by. Best regards to all!"

Lawrence Oliver: "I went to medical school at SUNY Buffalo. I married in the second year of med school to Kathy, and we are happily married with two boys who live in the San Francisco area. I did an internship at Long Island Jewish Medical Center and then a residency in diagnostic radiology at Einstein/Bronx Municipal Hospital Center. I then went into the Navy under the Berry Plan and was stationed at NRMC Philadelphia, where I met up with **Les Schwartz.** We became friends and stay in touch. After the Navy my next job was in Reading, Pa., at Reading Hospital. I left after four years to join Radiology Affiliates Imaging in central New Jersey and moved to Yardley, Pa., in 1981. I stayed there for 25 years and ran a large radiology office. In 2006 I moved to Boca Raton and joined Boca Radiology Group, working at Boca Raton Regional Hospital, where I did breast imaging two to four days a week. I retired on July 1, 2023. Enjoying retirement."

Stephen Drimmer LAW'70: "Got married three days after graduation, and begin at the Law School and the Business School in a combined program. Had my first child in 1968, and received permanent deferment from the draft. Moved to Los Angeles in 1973; still here. Divorced in 1977 and married my gorgeous Ukrainian wife in 1986. Have two sons from my first marriage and four grandchildren. Have stayed involved in music for all these years: board member of Aspen Music Festival and School and have a relationship with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Have launched several startups, and am still doing that. Have become very involved in local Los Angeles community affairs. Still healthy and looking forward to enjoying whatever time is left."

Be well all of you, and do write.

1968

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Well, here goes my first column. I thank all who replied to my email either with news or encouragement. In addition to those whose news follows, I heard from **Robert Chapla, Eric Lerner, Russell Needham, Steve Ross, Theodore Spiro** and **Ken Tomecki.** If you didn't receive my email requesting news, it is probably because the University doesn't have a current email address for you. Please submit it to *CCT* using the online webform college.columbia.edu/cct/update_contact_info; the editors will ensure you are added to the class email list.

James Charney writes: "Since I retired from my office psychiatry practice, my wife, Diane, and I spend eight months a year in Italy and four months in New Haven. When we are in the States I continue to teach at Yale School of Medicine. For some 15 years I taught a seminar at Yale College, 'Madness at the Movies,' using commercial films to study the experience of mental illness. It was very popular. Covid-19 allowed me to finally sit down and write a book (my first), *Madness at the Movies: Understanding Mental Illness through Film,* based on that course. It came out last year. Last year, I taught a version of the course for Yale Alumni College. By popular demand, I did a follow-up this year, cleverly called 'More Madness at the Movies,' with different forms of mental illness and different films. I was pleased that half my class were repeat participants.

"Our son, Noah, a widely published author (his specialty is art crime) who lives with his wife and daughters in nearby Slovenia, suggested that we write a book together. *The 12-Hour Film Expert: Everything You Need to Know about Movies* came out in June. It is an introduction to film history, and an appreciation and guide to movie genres. Our place in Italy is in the countryside near Orvieto, in Umbria. A gardener's paradise. We love the food, the history, exploring the towns and villages, visiting with our expat and Italian friends, and seeing our granddaughters, Eleonora (11) and Izabella (9), as often as we can."

Chris Friedrichs writes, "I continue to enjoy my active retirement here in Vancouver. As an emeritus professor I no longer teach history classes at the University of British Columbia, but I am still a historian and I find myself quite busy with lectures to various groups in the community as well as some writing and publishing. Though I am a widower, I have a great circle of friends and a full social calendar. My three kids and their spouses and my three grandkids all live in or near New York, but I see them often either on my trips to Brooklyn or their trips to Vancouver. I keep up with some members of our class. A few months ago I had lunch with my *Spectator* colleague **David Heim** and more recently I enjoyed a visit to Vancouver with my friend **Charles Jarowski** and his wife, Joan."

John Angell Grant's *The Green Notebook: Poems on Family, Relation-*

ships, Spirituality, Self-Enquiry, Recovery, ACA, Disruption, Death, Walking Through the Mirror and Cats, was published last fall. He also produced two short films, *Two Stoners* and *1958*, recently that have won, between them, 16 film awards; they can be viewed on YouTube.

Michael Olneck published *Culture Wars in American Education: Past and Present Struggles Over the Symbolic Order* this year.

Bohdan Oryshkevich commented on the recent difficulties at Columbia: "We alums need and deserve a transparent, multi-sided, uncensored explanation of the University's decisions and actions during recent events. A university that can be world-class must be accountable."

Edward Siegel sent news: "After practicing real estate and business law in Cleveland for 40 years, and suffering from a bad bicycle accident, I decided to see the world. I spent the next dozen years or so traveling and living in the western United States, Central and South America before heading to Southeast Asia. Like all of us, I had received an invitation from my uncle (Sam) for an all-expense paid trip to Vietnam right after graduation, which I turned down. Fifty years later I got to see Saigon, Hanoi and other beautiful spots, and crawled in the Củ Chi Tunnels. I returned to the U.S. in 2016, volunteered for Biden in Arizona and then went to Seattle, where I volunteered for a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, filling out and filing the paperwork necessary for Ukrainian immigrants to gain temporary permanent status and go to work in the U.S. The most gratifying and least remunerative job I ever had. Loved it."

Alan Weiss sent me a long document describing his powerful experience teaching a video streaming international class, including to two students from Sapir College in Sderot, Israel. In particular, he wrote about discussions in response to the Hamas attacks of Oct. 7, 2023. He said his students show a better sense of international cooperation than many diplomats.

Ed Weathers sent news: "Since 2011, I've been retired from my career as a magazine writer and editor and writing teacher. I now spend my days here in Blacksburg, Va., playing golf and tennis. I also help a bit with the Blacksburg Refugee Partnership, which supports Afghan and Syrian refugees starting new lives in the U.S.

"My greatest claim to Columbia fame is that, as a pitcher, I still hold the Columbia record for most strikeouts per nine innings during a season. This fact astonishes and tickles me. I'm also in third place all-time at Columbia for most strikeouts during a season, a few spots ahead of a guy named Lou Gehrig CC 1923. For this information I am indebted to **Larry Stallman**, my superstar catcher at Columbia. I was probably the worst athlete ever to earn a letter at Columbia, but a curveball in those days covered a multitude of athletic inadequacies.

"I am friends on Facebook with a few classmates, notably Larry S. and the wizard astronomer **Bruce Margon**. Fred Stern '71, son of the great Columbia historian Fritz Stern '46, GSAS'53, is my best friend in the world.

"I have a wonderful son and brilliant granddaughters, but it would take an entire issue of this publication to sing all their praises."

Paul Gallagher wrote about the recent death of **Tom Seligson**: "He lived nearby, and I saw him frequently. We skied, biked and kayaked, but during the last few years, as Parkinson's disease manifested, we limited it to walks. Tom was a talented writer, publishing his first two books in the three years following graduation, one of which was sourced from his two years of teaching right after Columbia, at a public school in Morningside Heights. For more than 25 years following graduation he lived in the same apartment he had as a student and would connect with current undergraduates who were offspring of classmates. In that way he became a mentor to our son, who also was a writer." [Editor's note: See "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct.]

Now for some news from me. **Mas Taketomo** came to New York from his home in Minnesota at the end of May to attend his 60th high school reunion (Bronx Science). While Mas was here, **Rich Rosenblum** arranged for a dinner gathering at Bella Blu, on the Upper East Side, for Mas; Rich and his wife, Judy; my wife, Abby Sommer Kurnit BC'68; and me. We spent a wonderful evening eating good food, catching up and just enjoying each other's company. I am in regular contact with Rich because we manage the Columbia Alumni Singers together (Rich does most of the work). I also hear from Mas regularly, but it is always great to see each other.

I have left **Arthur Spector**'s remarks for last. After expressing concern about the events on campus, he wrote: "I would like to note we all ran into each other in 1964 — *that is 60 years ago this fall* — meeting some fascinating, brilliant classmates and great faculty; such good fortune for us all."

I couldn't have said it better.

Keep the news coming. Sans souci!

1969

Columbia College Today
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Thank you to the following alumni, who responded to our call for updates. We did not have space for all the notes we received this time so some will be online; please see the end of the column.

William B. Bonvillian LAW'74 writes, "My wife and I have moved from Northern Virginia to Wilton, Conn., to be near our three little grandchildren. I continue to teach in-person and online courses at MIT, and my sixth book, *Pioneering Progress: American Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy,* will be published in October. Great to see everyone at our 55th reunion."

Eric Branfman writes, "After more than 50 years living in the Washington, D.C., area, my wife and I bought a home in a golf community in Delray Beach, Fla., where we look forward to voting this November to add to the Florida Constitution the right to abortion before viability or when necessary to protect the patient's health. We have kept our condo in Chevy Chase, Md., and are spending the hottest months there. I retired from law practice in 2017 and have never regretted it. I've kept busy with my two lifelong hobbies, bridge and golf. In May, I became a grandfather when my son, Josh Branfman '09, and his wife had a daughter. As many before me have said, being a grandparent is great.

"One positive consequence of Covid-19 is that duplicate bridge playing expanded from face-to-face to online and as a result, I've played online a number of times as partners with **Rick Prouser**, although we live on opposite coasts. This July, Rick and I competed against one another, though. My bridge team won the right to represent the Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia area in the Grand National Teams Flight A championship event in Toronto. Rick lives in Portland, Ore., and his team won the right to represent his area, so our teams competed against each other as well as against teams from other areas around the country. The deadline for these Class Notes preceded the event, so I can't tell you how we did, but I look forward to seeing Rick again, win or lose."

Joel Rabkin, who now goes by Zeke, writes, "I moved from San Diego to Baja California in 2009. I did volunteer work in Ukraine last summer and it was an incredibly inspirational and transformational experience. Since then I have been doing what I can to raise funds to help the Ukrainians defeat the Russians. I would welcome support from any of you."

Francis Levy writes, "So sorry to hear about **Nathaniel Wander**'s passing away. I had corresponded with him several times. In his later years he'd become a watercolorist, and he showed me his works online.

"I have been a writer all these years. My latest book is *The Kafka Studies Department,* with illustrations by my wife, Hallie Cohen, and published last November. I recently completed a graphic novel, *The Wormhole Society,* illustrated by Joseph A. Silver '95. He also animated my earlier novel, *Erotomania: A Romance.* I have practiced traditional Japanese karate for 31 years and have achieved the rank of *Kyoshi,* which is fifth-degree black belt. Hallie, a professor of art at Marymount Manhattan College (MMC), and I have been in the Visiting Artists & Scholars program at the American Academy in Rome for nine years. Hallie worked in the Philip Guston studio and produced "Mi Ricordo: Roman Watercolors," a series of 12-foot-by-5-foot paintings. Many of these cited classics of Italian cinema like Pasolini's *Mamma Roma.* I provided the narration in the videos that accompanied the exhibition in The Hewitt Gallery of Art at MMC this past spring."

Dr. **Edward J. Hyman** writes, "I add a note of personal loss for classmate and my former UCSF colleague **Nate Wander.** He was a great researcher, as well as a friend. We were in more frequent contact in the last five years or so, long after he left UCSF, though I had no notion of his health challenges and was shocked to hear of his death. Nate's research, along with that of his collaborator Stanton Glantz, ultimately contributed greatly to the cancer notices on tobacco products, and their banning from media ads.

"For those of you who were American history majors, I share the passing of Lew Orans '68, my friend from secondary school and Columbia. Lew had a serious congenital coronary problem, but as a testimonial to medical research and his own dedication to remaining alive, outlasted any other male in his family by nearly two decades. A student of Jim Shenton '49, GSAS'54, Lew turned to the private sector after college, pursuing a career in human resources management that culminated with his early retirement as VP for HR of a major petrochemical giant in Texas.

"Better news is that my older son, Cameron, a medical school professor at the University of Minnesota School of Medicine, was expecting a daughter in early July. As my wife, Deb, and I spend our summers in Northern Minnesota in the North Shore of Lake Superior's Grand Marais, 30 miles south of Canada, we will be available to assist with her siblings, Eloise (7) and Graham (3), to allow Cam and his wife, Beth Jarett, a pediatric hospitalist at the U, to concentrate on their newborn, teaching, research and clinical duties.

"Devon, my younger son, left his position at Harvard and is exploring broader horizons in film and art in Los Angeles while living south of there in Fallbrook, one of the most beautiful areas of Southern California.

"Deb and I luckily are of good health, and continue to work, Deb as a clinical and developmental psychologist and feng shui master, and I as a forensic psychologist. I currently have a variety of cases in Montana, Oregon, California and Minnesota, so life is hectic but rewarding. I consider myself lucky to love my work, but in deference to my love of forensics and my increasing age, I have gone to emeritus status and no longer teach, other than periodic Minimum Continuing Legal Education for attorneys and judges, and Continuing Medical Education for physicians, psychiatrists and psychologists.

"We remain most of the year in Sausalito's Muir Beach, where we built a house in 1984. I keep in touch with my old John Jay friends Henry Simonds '70 and Seth Weinstein '68, but have not seen either in more than five years. I would love to hear from classmates and any other CC friends coming to the SF area, and am best reached at psychologyexpert@hotmail.com."

Henry Jackson writes, "As my physical capacities diminish, I try to keep mentally alert by reading, keeping abreast of the news and watching films."

Please go to this column online at college.columbia.edu/cct to read notes from **Jerry Avorn** and **Michael Braudy,** and to "Obituaries," also online, to read more about **Nathaniel Wander.**

Please share your updates with us and with your classmates by email or by using the online webform college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

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1970

REUNION 2025
MAY 29–31

Leo Kailas
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Victor Hertz reports that his translation service is thriving and that he enjoyed the summer and his new grandson: "Staying busy; (most) trouble is good trouble. Regards to all classmates."

Dan Feldman gave me this update: "Got my Ph.D. in philosophy from the CUNY Graduate Center in the Spring semester, with a dissertation, *Law's Legitimacy: Lon Fuller in a Consequentialist Frame.* Perhaps I took an unusual path: I got the Ph.D. 10 years after I got tenure and full-professor rank (and more than 50 years after getting my law degree), but I loved taking the classes and highly recommend going back to school to study something of interest at this stage in our lives."

John Gardner sent me a beautiful poem by Lord Byron about the Greek Isles, where I am vacationing as I write this: "The isles of Greece! the isles of Greece / Where burning Sappho loved and sung, / Where grew the arts of war and peace, / Where Delos rose, and Phoebus sprung! / Eternal summer gilds them yet / But all, except their sun, is set."

Professor **Robert Launay** informed me, "I recently published an op ed in the *Chicago Sun-Times,* online at bit.ly/4falTr7. Given the topic, it may well be of interest to others, as it responds to campus protests."

Ralph Allemano reports: "All is well here in rural Wales. My wife, Catherine, and I are, as my mother used to say, still 'right side up'! I'm fast approaching three-quarters of a century and I'm still enjoying a bit of running, theatre and travel. Two grandchildren now: Reni (a boy) was born in September. Margot is approaching 2."

Phil Zegarelli SIPA'76 gave me this update: "I have survived retirement. While I retired more than two years ago, it's still been a long slog to decompress. Since June 1970, it has been: Navy service in Antarctica, ending at the United States Mission to the United Nations under George Bush as a Navy lieutenant; back to Columbia for a master's from SIPA; married; and 15 years at a major money center bank primarily in 'loan workout,' which took me to Israel and Australia. The elected government side started with five years as a Village of Sleepy Hollow trustee and 18 years as mayor. Along the way had a three-year stint as a Pocantico Hills Central School board member: something I will never do again. Shifted to village manager of Briarcliff Manor for more than 12 years, and then punched the retirement button.

"Today I finally adjusted to not automatically waking up daily at 5:15 a.m. True release came by working with people and organizing things. I now have several beehives that produce fantastic honey (talk about social engineering and organization!), and after several years as a director of the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, I recently was elected its president — talk about retiring and ending up in the ultimate 'dead-end' job. There are at least 47,000 people residing in one location of 90-plus acres.

"My wife, Barbara, has been very supportive since my cold-turkey retirement process. but it does keep me out of the house. BTW ... you can contact me at pez@sleepyhollowcemetery.org. The Headless Horseman is real and the Halloween season is unbelievable."

Jonathan Beck reports: "I published Vol. 13 of the *Recueil général de moralités d'expression française*; 534 pages of guerilla theater, religion and politics in late-medieval, early-modern France. Info at jonathanbeck.net."

I received a long report from **Roger Crossland.** Highlights include: "Once again, I've missed reunion, but I did take my first serious step onto Columbia's campus since graduating in 1970, on May 16, 2024. I was invited to be the guest speaker, under escort, for the commissioning of four NROTC ensigns, after their graduations the day before. Since graduation, I served 35 years, active and reserve, as a sea/air/land commando-frogman (SEAL). My first deployment was to Vietnam in 1971 and my last deployment was to Afghanistan in 2002. After retiring from trial practice in 2016, I served three terms as chair of the Veterans and Military Affairs Section of the Connecticut Bar Association."

1971

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Jeffrey Weinberg and **Ed Gartenberg** attended the funeral of Dr. **Mark Silverman.** In 1975, Mark graduated from the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. He earned board certification in pathology and became the chair of the Pathology Department of the renowned Lahey Hospital and Medical Center in Burlington, Mass. He held that position for more than 30 years. He is survived by his wife, Susan BC'72, three chil-

dren and six grandchildren. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct.]

The present times at our college remind us of the days when we were being educated and the turmoil on our campus then. Yet, our class has not only turned out well but also numbers leaders in many fields in America and the world. Your communications to this column inform your friends and classmates of your victories in life. By providing your life's story for us, you bring pride to your Columbia family. Thank you for sharing.

1972

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Life has transitioned for many of us in recent years. **Tom Love** offers a good example. "After long careers in Oregon, my wife and I retired to Tucson (we'd heard tell of a glowing disc in the sky that we hadn't seen much of), where I've connected with **Doug Weiner.** Drawing on my anthro training and experience living in Peru, I continue to lead educational tours to Latin America (chiefly Andean countries) and in fact am currently in N.W. Mexico for a solar eclipse tour with members of The Planetary Society. Saddened to lose **Joe Falik** LAW'75 last year." [Editor's note: See "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct.]

Also retired but thriving is **Richard Roth,** who lives in Morningside Heights, where he's "greatly enjoying the opportunity offered by the School of Professional Studies to audit Columbia classes for free. It's a great way to take advantage of all the University's facilities, especially library borrowing. For the past several years, I have been studying Tibetan language and Buddhist philosophy."

Not all transitions, of course, involve retirement, as **Gene Ross** illustrates: "Life is still exciting. I made *aliyah* [i.e., emigrated to Israel] in December, adopted Israeli citizenship and spent the winter in Jerusalem. I obtained an Israeli medical license, provisional ear, nose and throat board certification, and have a job waiting for me in a university medical center in Jerusalem. My wife, Maria, stayed behind due to the war, but she was ready to make *aliyah* this past summer. Once returned to New York, I resumed part-time (volunteer) clinical practice at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx. I finally have a (gorgeous, brilliant, vigorous, incredibly nice) grandson, Eli Ross. What joy!"

Gene runs two miles a day, plays classical piano and enjoys golf with his three sons. "I enjoy my friendships of 40, 50 and 60 years," he adds. "I'm truly blessed."

Rick Kurnit has "retired from practicing law to devote myself to my grandchildren and try to help to keep America from turning into an authoritarian dictatorship with no accountability and no rights for women or poor people (other than white separatists)."

Neil Izenberg writes from his 1840s brick row house in Philadelphia. "I'm retired, like most classmates. Much of my career I was an academic pediatrician and video producer/online educator — a sort of online pioneer who developed kidshealth.org, the first consumer-oriented website about children's health. To the current generation, though, 'pioneers' of the digital variety no doubt seem as ancient as the pioneers who crossed our fledgling nation in Conestoga wagons trying to find their own place. Recently, I was walking across the Penn campus, trying to locate the Penn Center for Neuroaesthetics at the Perelman School of Medicine. I had volunteered to be a control subject in a study focusing on how the brain and creativity change as we age. I had never heard of neuroaesthetics, but it sounded intriguing — the mysterious marriage of two concepts with which I was familiar. As I tried to arrive at the lab on time, I became lost among the serpentine paths of the campus and among the hordes of fresh-faced students on their way somewhere. Sometimes the old is new again. The style of many of them harkened back to our days at Columbia: bell bottoms, long straight hair, strings of beads, cogent message buttons and casual appearing, but carefully arranged, multilayered clothing. So many of the students looked like those I knew at alma mater, only as a group they were considerably more diverse. That seemed like a good thing, for sure. Being lost, I tried to flag down some of them to get directions, but ... nothing. They passed me by without making eye contact. Virtually all of them had earbuds and were fully focused on their various-sized screens. Eventually, I planted myself in front of one smiling student and got directions. I arrived at the lab just in time, completed my two hours of testing administered by a pleasant Fulbright fellow from Bulgaria who had almost finished her Ph.D., and headed home in the late afternoon chill. Even if it wasn't Morningside Heights, it was nice to spend some of my afternoon on campus."

Of course, not everyone has hung up their cleats. **Arnold Horowitz** is still working, plus "I churn out commentary on the side on economic and geopolitical matters (link available on request). Sample of topics covered: Putin, Ukraine, Gaza, semiconductors, Francis Fukuyama, Emmanuel Todd. Probably the most exciting news in our family is that older son, William, now works for an innovative startup, Anduril. Its specialty is cutting-edge combat drones."

Charles Kaiser is also still chugging away. "The writing career I started senior year when I began writing for *The New York Times* has continued ever since. After eight years at the *Times,* which included stints covering the environment, State Supreme Court and City Hall, I became the press critic at *Newsweek* and then the publishing reporter at *The Wall Street Journal.* I have written three books: *1968 In America: Music, Politics, Chaos, Counterculture, and the Shaping of a Generation* (which includes a chapter about the Columbia uprising and has gone through three editions); *The Gay Metropolis: The Landmark History of Gay Life in America,* the landmark history of gay life in America, a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year and a Lambda Literary Award winner (now in its sixth edition); and *The Cost of Courage,* about one family in the French Resistance I've known all my life. Together they have been in print continually for 60 years. I have appeared in documentaries about 1968 on VH-1, CBS, PBS and CNN (now available on HBO Max). My most recent documentary appearance was in *Desperate Souls, Dark City and the Legend of* Midnight Cowboy, available on Prime Video and YouTube. I've taught journalism at Princeton and Columbia and LGBTQ history at Hunter College, where I spent a couple of years as the acting director of the LGBTQ Policy Center. My work has also appeared in *Vanity Fair, New York, Vogue, The Los Angeles Times, Slate, Salon,* The Daily Beast, *The New Republic* and the *New York Review of Books* website. I wrote an afterword for the Penguin volume of *On Being Different: What It Means to be a Homosexual,* Merle Miller's landmark piece, which appeared in *The New York Times Magazine* when we were undergraduates and gave me hope that there could be life after I realized I was gay. Last July, my husband, Joe Stouter, and I celebrated 45 years together, 11 of them as husband and husband (after the Supreme Court made that possible.) Joe is a successful painter in oils and acrylics."

Charles also reviews books for *The Guardian* (U.S.) and writes "from time to time" for *The Washington Post*, "including about a new collection of photographs taken by Paul McCartney at the height of the Beatles' fame. For Bob Dylan's 80th birthday, I wrote for *Slate* about his 'unlikely, lifesaving queerness.' A few years ago, I was inducted into the LGBTQ+ Journalists Hall of Fame. Since I arrived at Livingston Hall in fall 1968, I have lived somewhere between West 115th and 106th streets, except for two and a half years when I lived in France to research my book about the French Resistance. As long as I can type, I will continue to write. P.S. After 50 years, **Sal Matera** GS'83 and **Steve Shapiro** remain my closest friends."

1973

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Here's hoping for some sense of normalcy to creep back into the world. It's been an unsettling time!

Mike Byowitz founded and co-chaired a task force within the American Bar Association to create and implement the Afghan Legal Professionals Scholarship & Mentoring Pilot Program, which helps Afghan judges, lawyers and prosecutors to become lawyers in the United States through a one-year L.L.M. course. The program has already generated scholarships at a number of schools; there are 22 law schools participating to date.

Ross Alexander is enjoying retirement in Fishtown, Pa., after 40 years in healthcare IT. He's passing the time learning tango dancing, taking museum classes and going to theater, comedy clubs and concerts.

Richard Abels GSAS'82 was elected a fellow of The Medieval Academy of America; his retirement incorporates his podcast, 'Tis But a Scratch: Fact & Fiction About the Middle Ages, now in its third year. He also enjoys tennis and babysitting his four grandkids; he and his wife, Ellen Harrison BC'75, recently celebrated their 49th anniversary.

Douglas Andrews GSAS'76's most recent venture is DoubleWing Health & Beauty, headquartered in London with a subsidiary in Shanghai. It is launching a broad range of personal and cosmetic products for the $100 billion Chinese and Southeast Asian markets.

Keep the faith, all. It gets better from here.

1974

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On May 30–June 1, the Class of '74 gathered on campus to celebrate 50 years since graduation. People tend to toss around the phrase "50th reunion" casually, but it should be given more importance. Do you realize we are now about two and half times older than we were when we received our B.A. or B.S.? As is said, "a lot of water has passed under the bridge"! Many of us have gone on to get additional academic degrees, to marry, have kids and perhaps have grandkids. Careers have started and often changed several times. Most of us have overcome challenges — big and small — on our journeys. These were all topics classmates shared over food and drinks during reunion.

The publication of the reunion classmate profile "book" has led to a change in format for this column. With so many of us submitting detailed information, it seems redundant to pass along brief notes like usual. Instead, this column will concentrate on various aspects of reunion itself. While this is a poor substitute for actually being on campus, it might help those who missed our gathering get some idea of what occurred.

Despite fears of disruptions by students (and especially non-Columbia protestors), there was little evidence of the chaos of the preceding month. (The Saturday lunch on South Lawn had to be moved because on Friday night a small group took over the tent that had been put up for reunion). All in all, I don't think anyone felt threatened or even realized life on campus was affected. Of course, this is certainly a developing story!

The latest count I saw was that we had well more than 100 classmates and guests attend (including some members of BC'74 and SEAS'74). We heard from some classmates who had intended to come, but boycotted it in protest of Columbia's handling of the conflict. Others wrote to send their regrets because of illness in themselves or family members, business obligations and the like. We should all give thanks to the months of efforts by Ashley Bleam and Mitch Montgomery (and other "unsung heroes") in the Alumni Office. Also deserving credit are the dozen classmates from around the country who helped shape the festivities: **Bryan Berry** (Joliet, Ill.), **Tom Ferguson** (San Francisco), **Garrett McK. Johnson** (Los Angeles), **Abbe Lowell** (Washington, D.C.) and **David Melnick** (Boston), and from the New York region, **Fred Bremer, Dewey Cole, Geoff Colvin, Ted Gregory, Mark Lebwohl** and **George Van Amson.** (Apologies to any others my aged mind has forgotten). It should be noted that after their hard work, **Abbe Lowell** couldn't attend reunion because of the Hunter Biden trial, and **Mark Lebwohl** was missing because he was heading a medical conference out west.

One highlight was the Saturday afternoon event, dubbed "Class Conversation." We heard from classmates on how their Columbia education affected their post-grad lives and the professors whom they felt had the greatest influence on them. Also addressed were opinions on the campus protests and condemning the antisemitism that has emerged. Another major event was the Saturday dinner at the elegant Casa Italiana. After a significant period for cocktails on the wonderful outdoor patio, we retreated inside to hear Dean Josef Sorett give an update on new developments at alma mater. Then it was time for dinner and more shmoozing before some energetic classmates danced away the night at the Starlight Celebration on Low Plaza.

One note needs to be included in this column to make sure we all know that we have one classmate, **Tom Sawicki**, living in Israel with his family amid the turmoil. (**David Katz** had been teaching there until a year ago, but is now teaching stateside at Brandeis.) One of Tom's two sons is a doctor who accepted a fellowship at Harvard, and Tom hopes to visit the Northeast this fall. His obviously uncertain plans might bring him to New York in October, he says.

The "In Memoriam" list on the wall at our Saturday dinner was a painful reminder of the 64 classmates who have passed away during the last half-century (roughly 10 percent of our original class). Because many deaths are undoubtedly not reported, the total number of departed classmates is certainly larger. Based on those attending reunion, classmates seem remarkably vital and heeding the words inscribed on the wall in the John Jay Lounge: "Hold fast to the spirit of youth, let years to come do what they may."

There you have it: a well-attended gathering of old buddies (in both senses of "old") after a half-century of following many disparate paths. Here's to hopes of getting together again soon!

1975

REUNION 2025
MAY 29–31

Robert D. Katz
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As I write this, I am sorry to say that three Columbia College deans have been placed on leave for texting antisemitic comments during a panel, "Jewish Life on Campus: Past, Present and Future," held at Columbia Reunion 2024. Separately, but equally distressing, Manhattan DA Alvin Bragg has refused to prosecute most of the vandals who broke into Hamilton Hall and destroyed a significant amount of property. He claims that the students disabled the security cameras inside and therefore there was insufficient evidence to charge most of them. We all know that Bragg has a history of being soft on crime and this is just another example. President Minouche Shafik canceled Commencement to avoid protests and potential disruption.

Turning to more pleasant topics, such as news from classmates:

From the West Coast (Irvine, Calif., to be exact), attorney **Dov Fischer** writes: "Rabbi Dov Fischer (former University Senator) was promoted to senior sditor at *The American Spectator.* He has retired after 20 years of teaching law school at UC Irvine and Loyola Law. He continues as congregational rabbi of Young Israel of Orange County, has begun posting his wide range of Torah and Judaism classes on his YouTube channel and has increased his activity and fundraising in support of Israel."

And from closer to home, namely, a career spent in Kings County Hospital Center, Brooklyn, N.Y., **Stewart Lazow** DM'79 published a memoir on April 30 about his career as a highly accomplished oral and maxillofacial surgeon: *A Surgeon's Memoir: 40 Years at the County* takes us on his convoluted journey to becoming professor, vice-chair, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Residency Program director, and director of service at Kings County Hospital Center.

Throughout his 40 years as a surgeon, Stewart witnessed countless patient encounters — some comical, some tragic, some that confirmed his faith in the human spirit — in addition to shocking resident foibles. He had his share of rewarding cases and heartbreaking failures, and was utterly dismayed by a fractured, grossly inefficient healthcare delivery system. The county certainly wasn't for everyone. He was just a "county guy."

Stewart now lives vicariously through the accomplishments of his children: Margot '11, valedictorian of her CC class, is a pediatric neuro-oncologist at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. Stefanie (Dartmouth '12) is completing a trauma surgery/critical care fellowship at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville. Zachary (Colgate '16) focuses on cybersecurity for the Federal Reserve Bank in New York City.

Stewart retired in 2018 and lives in Naples, Fla., with his wife of 40 years, Helaine. He is an avid, albeit mediocre, golfer.

And finally, a note from another retired classmate, in Massachusetts:

Kevin McSweeney writes: "I am retired (eight years) from a career as a software executive. Currently living in Newburyport, Mass., with my wife, Cindy. Our three adult children (John, James and Shannon) and one granddaughter (Ava) live nearby. Most of my time is spent traveling, coaching middle-school cross country and volunteering in town. I am in contact with **Bob Wazevich, Mike Gordon, Richard Schmeling, Bob Lucy, Kevin Creeden, Mike Telep, Gary Jenkins,** Mike Delaney '76, Bryan Alix '76, Matt Peckham '79, Mike Lombardi '74, Steve Dennin '76, John Monahan '77 and Beth Pendergast BC'77 via **Dan Mauzy**'s monthly Zoom call. Hoping to see many classmates at our 50th reunion."

1976

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Wild Things Run Fast from Joni Mitchell is playing away. Recently, I added a Bluetooth transmitter to my stereo system, so the albums are now playing on Bluetooth speakers as I walk through my home. I have never liked headphones. Amazingly, the same Bluetooth speakers that sound shallow with online music sources sound awesome with music from records on a turntable. This column is taking way too long, since I am enjoying the sound so much.

So, 70 is the magic number as of June. In celebration, my three children invited friends and family to V&T for a Saturday afternoon salad and pizza celebration. More than 80 people attended, including **Mike Yeager, Mozelle Thompson** SIPA'79, LAW'81 and **Tiberio Nascimento.** As the *CCT* class correspondent, I gathered the Columbia College graduates in front of V&T for the nearby photo. The Columbia classes in attendance spanned 1956 through 2045 (my grandson of 8 weeks old).

Now for the updates!

Joe Graif BUS'78: "The Susan A. & Joseph N. Graif Foundation began its second season of public concerts in Sue and Joe's home this past April. Planning has already begun for 2025; we will bring some world-class artists to our little part of the world. Please visit us at graif foundation.org and check out what we are doing."

Gary Lehman BUS'80, SIPA'80: "They say we 'will know' when it is time to retire, so I guess I am not there yet. Working at FEMA as public sector program manager after a 36-year career at IBM (retired from there in 2015). My wife, Linda SIPA'80, and I have seven bambino adorable grandchildren and we enjoy traveling to far-flung places — harder to hit a moving target! Best to all classmates and — keep on keeping on!"

Ira Breskin JRN'92: "Using a light touch when discussing medical options provides tremendous solace. Dr. James D. Capozzi '77 kindly gave me that invaluable gift. Recently, at the conclusion of an office visit, Capozzi knowingly put my mind at ease. He did so by smiling and then saying a familiar, heart-warming phrase, 'Go Lions.'"

Peter D. Barash checked in from Glendale, Calif.: "Still working in finance at Morgan Stanley, and contemplating retirement but not quite ready to pull the trigger. My youngest child, Jacob, is still at home in California, but my daughter, Sarah, has moved to New York and claims she's never coming back."

Dave Merzel: "An update from one of those big square flyover states: **Tim Tracey** visited Dave at his home in Park City, Utah, which happened to coincide with Tim's 70th birthday. After our Olympic training run for the 70-plus-year-old bicycle team, we posed in our requisite reunion biking jerseys. Both of us, and our wives, are actively enjoying retirement: Tim and Mary in Georgetown, Texas, and Dave and Linda in Park City. The ski terrain is a little sparse in Texas, so Tim gets his skiing fix on visits to Park City. Dave and Linda are trying hard to fully appreciate the wines of Texas Hill Country on their visits to Texas. Fellow '76ers should feel free to contact Dave when in Park City for skiing or Tim when seeking barbecue in central Texas."

Go to this column online at college.columbia.edu/cct to see a photo of the two bicyclists! Also, Dave is one of my predecessors!

Michael Gilbride: "I celebrated my 70th birthday on May 4 with my Columbia College roommate, Tim Butler '78, and my dear friend Susana Namnum BC'75 in the same apartment we shared 1974–75 on West 110th Street, which we jokingly call the Cathedral Arms. We stayed up to midnight to count down for me, the birthday boy. I found out I have the same birthday as Keith Haring. I'm writing this from Puerto Rico, where I am celebrating my wife Providencia Castro's birthday and then our 20th wedding anniversary. Working on a third book."

Ken Howitt '76 (fifth from right) celebrated his 70th birthday on June 15 at V&T Italian Restaurant and Pizzeria with, left to right: Jim Miller '70, Mozelle Thompson '76, Kevin DeMarrais '64, Russ Behrman '77, Larry Howitt '85, Jeff Howitt '72, Mike Yeager '76, Katherine Howitt '13, Milo Alvin Howitt Casper-Futterman ('45), Jeff Shrader '08 and Tiberio Nascimento '76.

Charles Philipp Martin: "No comments on the looming milestone birthday, other than it's all good: My suspense novel, *Rented Grave,* came out in out mid-August. A short story of mine recently appeared in a Puget Sound crime anthology, *The Killing Rain.* The novel is the first in a series of three, so I'll be occupied with scribbling (the perfect low-impact activity) well into my 70s."

Bob Giusti PH'77 is a pediatric pulmonologist at NYU Langone and will be an honoree at the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's Manhattan Breath of Life Gala at Cipriani 42nd Street on Wednesday, Nov. 20. More importantly, this past June Bob, his wife and family celebrated the wedding of their daughter Elizabeth Kipp-Giusti '12 to Alex Dabertin '15, SOA'19 at Belvedere Castle. Apparently, Bob and family are steamrolling into his eighth decade!

Patrick Bergin: "I'm 70 recently also, but 69 was way more fun. Respect the 69th birthday! There is only one. In other arenas, I went to high school with **Mozelle Thompson.** West Babylon H.S., Long Island, of all places. How is he doing? I know he was a quasi-fancy government lawyer for a while. We (my wife, Andrea, and me) are still in Eugene, Ore., where I practice full-time, ass-kicking, up-all-night interventional cardiology. As Ken Kesey once told me, 'Hunza!' Hope to see you at V&T one of these days. Grab a beer and dredge up fearful and fabulous memories!"

Mozelle is everywhere, splitting time between NYC and Washington, D.C., and stopping often in Rehoboth Beach, Del. It was great to see him at the party.

So, for me, the memories are the adhesive that bind the times of life with the places where events happen; for me, very often on the Morningside Heights campus. I am fortunate to stay involved with a lot of students through my frequent visits, and their youthful vibrancy keeps me going. That continued involvement makes me feel way younger than 70.

One of our judges, the Hon. **Vinnie Briccetti,** offered this opinion on a milestone that quite a few of us have reached recently: "To paraphrase Mark Twain: If you can't make it to 70 other than by some uncomfortable road, don't even bother."

Attending a screening of a documentary of Toomas Hendrik Ilves '76's life and years as president of Estonia on April 27 at Scandinavia House in New York City were, left to right, Ken Howitt '76, Ilves and Jamie Kitman '79.

Finally, I trade emails with a basketball Lion, **Larry Collins**. My most vivid memory of Larry was in the 1975 Holiday Festival at Madison Square Garden, when he sank Columbia's first basket against Bobby Knight's Indiana Hoosiers. Larry, in 1980, penned a poem that I mentioned in the Spring 2020 issue of *CCT*. This year, I reread that poem and exchanged emails about the 70th. Larry mentioned that he recently changed the word "energy" to "Inner-Gee" in this stanza. I thank Larry for giving this inspiration for the 70th milestone:

"I am like the Phoenix,
"Whose life begins only through the burning desire,
"To be reborn upon the pyre of its old-self;
"And using the Universal Inner-Gee that permeates all God's creation,
"To catalyze my-infernal renaissance,
"I have emerged, reborn, a new man."

Class Notes are submitted by alumni and edited by volunteer class correspondents and the staff of CCT prior to publication. Opinions expressed are those of individual alumni and do not reflect the opinions of CCT, its class correspondents, the College or the University. By submitting to Class Notes, you acknowledge that the text is accepted to appear in print as well as on CCT online and in archives.

I hope all '76ers keep their "Inner-Gee" young and fresh and bring it with them back to Columbia (the 50th reunion in June 2026, or sooner). Please stay in touch!

1977

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No column this issue, for which I apologize. I expect to have one in the next issue, Winter/Spring 2025. Recent events at Columbia must have alums reflecting on their time at CC. Hamilton Hall does not often appear in the national news. Consider writing in about this, or anything else, when you have a chance.

1978

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We had a lot of thoughts about the protests and the school's reaction. A few notes slipped in as well. You wrote so much I had to edit and put some things in the online version; I thank you.

Rob Anthony, a tech journalist with more than one million followers, notes, "I have great respect for how the student reporters and editors at *Spectator* and WCKR covered the protests despite the efforts to keep them from seeing and reporting on what was going on. I hadn't purchased a magazine in ages, but I purchased a copy of *New York Magazine* that featured in-depth reporting from *Spectator* staffers.

"The response to the protests leaves the University with a black eye that will take time to heal."

Lawyer **Phil Vecchio:** "Columbia needs to focus on academic excellence and stay out of politics and 'activism.' By allowing the mission of Columbia to drift into activism we have alienated many of the alumni and distracted from the good work that Columbia has done over the course of 270 years. Antisemitism and threats of violence against Jewish members of the community are unacceptable and intolerable.

"Big education has become synonymous with elitism divorced from reality. You can follow my thoughts on the subject by reading 'Big Education needs Big Oversight,' published on Jan. 14 in Legal Insurrection."

Craig Carter noted, "Because of its post-Marxist, 'woke' agenda, Columbia does not really have free speech anymore. If you hail from the wrong identity group (e.g., Jews), or if you belong to the wrong political group (conservatives, Republicans), you will not be included — or made to feel welcome. You will be ostracized, shamed, bullied, exiled.

"Columbia doesn't have a diverse set of leaders. Its [most recent] president, College dean and most of its faculty members are cut from the same ideological cloth. How many senior administrators are Republican? How many conservatives hold faculty positions?"

Bill Hartung, Quincy Institute, writes, "I am in the midst of writing a book about the military-industrial complex, tentatively titled *The Trillion Dollar War Machine,* and wrote a piece for *The Nation*. And I've had some media experience of late, including podcast appearances that covered a wide spectrum, from Newt Gingrich to Jon Stewart. I am carrying on with my hobby of doing standup comedy at clubs around New York City. My wife, Audrey, works at Security Council Report, writing about UN activities, and my daughter, Emma, works at her college, Stanford, in student support services.

"I am disappointed at how the leadership at Columbia and other major universities has cracked down on peaceful protesters opposed to U.S. arms supplies to Israel for use in its brutal campaign in Gaza."

Dentist Dr. **Joel Nathanson** is not happy with recent events, "I used to be proud to be a Columbia alumnus — no more. Anti-Zionism — which is denying Jews the right to have their own country in their historic indigenous homeland — is antisemitism, not free speech."

Al Feliu: "My wife, Susan, and I have entered the world of grandparenthood and are enjoying every moment!

"I think Columbia, because of its reputation and being located in the media capital of the world, will always draw far more attention than most or any other institution. The brand will survive and thrive. This too shall pass."

Gary Pickholz SIPA'81, a business professor at Columbia, writes, "I'm still engaged in the happiness of pursuit. I am not permitted to discuss what is occurring at Columbia, which speaks volumes in and of itself. Columbia failed miserably, by all standards, and it will take decades to recover."

Edward Ferguson, IAC, opines, "One son's getting married, the other recently graduated from Georgetown, daughter a junior at UC Berkeley lived with us this summer.

"In our day it was easier to be on the 'right side' — usually the left side — but at least there were two sides. Today orthodoxy of view is above freedom of expression, and this is true of both the administration/faculty and the student body. In my view, Columbia has been exposed as having an entrenched, quasi-Maoist orthodoxy, churning out students who seemed ill informed about the world."

Adam Platnick LAW'81 comes back with a different view: "Calling the NYPD to the campus was abhorrent. In 1977 and 1978, there were protests against Henry Kissinger joining the faculty and against an apartheid regime ... this one in South Africa. The protests and demands for divestiture culminated in a takeover of the Business School and a disruption of the 1978 graduation. There were no repercussions, no congressional hearings, no rending of garments by the University president. The activists today make me proud; the administration has shamed itself and the University.

"President Minouche Shafik's answer to every question should have

been that we are a private institution committed to social justice and freedom of expression within the bounds of non-prejudicial civil discourse. Absent violence, we will always negotiate a peaceful resolution to any conflict on our campus. Full stop."

Retired **Tim Riedler** writes, "Daughter Pallas was married in a 15th-century monastery in the Apennines; she has a Ph.D. in musicology from Eastman School of Music in Rochester. Her husband is finishing a Ph.D. in optical physics at MIT. Son Laurens works for Blackwater in Washington D.C.; he graduated from Reed College. My wife and I live in Abruzzo, Italy, where we built a house a decade ago. I retired a decade ago, after 27 years as a Foreign Service lawyer with USAID. We're active in the Columbia Alumni Association of Italy, and the whole family spent two weeks traveling in Japan.

"The protests were positive in the sense of showing the passion and activist concern and engagement of students at Columbia today, but negative in the sense that too many protestors are thinking carelessly about the issues about which they protest. I think the institutional response shows more sense than some institutional responses at Columbia decades ago."

Tony Dellicarri, also retired, is in Ocean Isle Beach, N.C.: "From the vantage point of my new home, I was heartbroken to see what went on at Columbia. Of course, the right to speak one's mind is sacrosanct, but it appeared to me that there was an undercurrent of hatred that I never saw during the years of my association with the school. That right, however, does not give anyone the right to harass, threaten or injure.

"But the impact will be short term and the school will bounce back."

Dr. **Robert Posnick** is still active at Nashua (N.H.) Dermatology Associates. He believes, "Hate speech is not free speech. There should be more open debate and discussion of ideas.

"I think this will have a negative impact and that it will take 10 years for Columbia to regain its stature, and only if they punish the protestors severely with expulsion to prove they are serious about student safety."

Ballard Spahr partner and former *Spectator* publisher **David Margules** writes, "I have no problem with students expressing views on difficult topics and am not offended by sit-ins, teach-ins and civil disobedience. Nor does it offend me that people express support for Palestinian aspirations. The unwillingness of the University to ensure the safety of Jewish students and its lukewarm response to virulent expressions of Jew hatred is sickening. The position of faculty and staff that anti-Semites are engaging solely in exercises of free speech, while not calling out violence and threats of violence against Jews, while not demanding safeguards for Jews on campus and while giving aid and comfort to those expressing open antisemitism causes me to wonder about whether the University is an institution worth preserving."

Go to this column online at college.columbia.edu/cct to see notes from **Joe Schifilliti, Marvin Siegfried, Carl Sherer** and **Ron Koury.**

1979

Robert C. Klapper
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David Rapson LAW'83: "I am absolutely disgusted by how Columbia for so long failed to adequately address the rampant antisemitism that plagues the campus. The indoctrination and radicalization of Columbia students by 'teachers' who have decided to politicize a Columbia education in lieu of promoting critical thinking is abhorrent. If my kids were still college aged, I wouldn't send them to Columbia. I am embarrassed to say that I graduated from both the College and the Law School. What happened to the Columbia that we attended?"

Robert C. Klapper: "Today's Columbia thought comes from my world of orthopedic surgery, where I am proud to say I have completed my last examination for board certification. This tortuous process, which I have had to do every 10 years since 1989, will probably be the last time I will take a test.

"But it made me think of all those exams that I had to take to begin my career and during my time at Columbia — the SAT in high school, the MCAT in college, the national board exam in medical school and the yearly training exams in my residency. As I close the loop in my life as a test taker, I cannot help but reflect on how much of a disconnect exists between the information in the textbook, the information in the lecture/class and the information that appears on the exams. You, my fellow alumni, can appreciate best what I'm talking about. I remember vividly the moment I was bitten by the snake of a test question that took my naïve aspiring thirst for knowledge as a student so hard as to awaken me to the reality that the folks giving this test were not playing around.

"Did any of these exams prepare me for my road through life? I can now at this point say unequivocally, no. There I was the bright-eyed and bushy-tailed student taking the introduction to Spanish class in my first year of high school. Somehow, I am thinking about that exam as I took the last test I think I will ever have to take (by the way, in my first two years at VPS I took 76 three-hour examinations, but I digress…).

"There, in my freshman Spanish class, I was so proud of myself that I had learned the Spanish words for colors; blue is *azul*, yellow is *amarillo*, green is *verde* and red is *rosa.* And then I proceeded to take my first test. I did my homework; I did everything I was instructed to do as that good student I wanted to be. I so wanted that beautiful relationship with one's teacher, and yet here's the question she asked: 'The color of the walls in this room are _____.' (*El color de las paredes en este cuarto son* _____.) The multiple-choice answers were *azul, amarillo, verde* and *rosas.* Being so proud of myself, I looked around the room in my NYC public high school and the color was, for want of a better term, vomit green, and there it was, the answer in front of me: *verde.* Boom! On to the next question. I knew for sure I memorized the textbook and paid attention in class, and knew I aced that intro to Spanish first exam. Lo and behold the next week I got my test back, and I barely passed. I remember clearly the sinking feeling in my stomach. How could I have missed all of these questions that I knew I answered correctly? Well, guess what? The walls of that high school might have been green, but the correct answer was *rosas.*

"Now why in the world would the answer be red when clearly all four walls were hideous green, and *verde* was a choice? Well, it's because in Spanish, if the noun is plural (*paredes*), then the adjective must also be plural, and the only color in my multiple-choice question that was also plural was *rosas.* She tricked me! It was at that moment I realized the gloves are off. This idea of being a student and having a teacher be my soulmate was never to be!

"And now, as I close the loop as an exam taker, I ask the simple question of why and who decided this is the way to educate in the world? Why must it be this contentious relationship? It's almost as if you learn despite this behavior and not with any kind of nurturing that really should be in place. Obviously, I had many moments of joy with my professors through the years at Columbia but I still don't understand why there remains, 50 years later, separation of knowledge of the textbook, the class and the exam. Roar, lion, roar!"

1980

REUNION 2025
MAY 29–31

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Fall is a wonderful season, with a chill in the air, leaves turning and students returning to campus. We have a new era in football with a new coach, Jon Poppe, leading the Lions. With a number of returning seniors and talented underclassmen, we expect another fine season!

David Maloof was awarded the 2024 National Peacemaker Award from PAX Christi Metro. Dave has spent five decades giving prophetic Christian voice to the voiceless, and has been an advocate for equal rights throughout his career. In 2016, he published *Christianity Matters: How Over Two Millenia the Meek and the Merciful Revolutionized Civilization,* a book that documented Christians who confronted injustices; it won an international award from the Catholic Media Association.

Congratulations, Dave.

At the Summer Olympics in Paris, the USA track and field team continued to dominate in many events. It is no wonder that **John Schutty** played a role in

that success, as chair of the New York Athletic Club (NYAC) Track and Field Program. This program provides competitive opportunities for athletes who, having already graduated, no longer have college affiliations. NYAC's roster includes many former NCAA All-Americans and emerging local talent who strive to make it on the world stage.

Dave Cromwick SEAS'80 checked in from Massachusetts. After a long and distinguished career in the medical technology field, he recently retired and says he is looking forward to reengaging with Columbia football.

Will be glad to see him return for Homecoming this year, Saturday, Oct. 26.

Drop me a line at mcbcu80@yahoo.com.

1981

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Lenny Cassuto has been teaching in the English department at Fordham for many years. This past spring — with "impeccable timing," he wrote — he moonlighted at Columbia, teaching a graduate seminar on the history of American higher education. The seminar met (where else?) in Hamilton Hall.

"Teaching the history of higher ed while the history of higher ed is actually happening outside the window might be a scholar's dream," Lenny said, "but not when the conflicts are rending the fabric of your school. Our class discussions were rich and often emotional, which matched what's happening at Columbia: It's terrible, sad and terribly sad. The seminar reached its end a couple of beats before the campus clampdown. Through all of this, I found myself remembering when Mark Rudd '69 surrendered during our freshman year. I recall wondering, 'Who the hell is Mark Rudd?' I learned the answer pretty fast, and how the campus was still vibrating from 1968. It still is, and now it'll vibrate from 2024."

Lenny has been writing or editing the occasional book these last few decades (check out his lively website if you want to learn more: lcassuto.com). He has a new one coming out this fall, his 10th: *Academic Writing as if Readers Matter.* Lenny says this one might be his favorite. It's certainly his most personal, he said, and his funniest. (Yes, professors can write funny books, he told me. "They just don't do it very often.") I (Dan) got an advance look at parts of the book, and was struck by Lenny's touching acknowledgement of the late Professor of English Edward Tayler, and how they reconnected after Lenny began teaching writing as a graduate student. Some of you might remember Professor Tayler and the tart seven-page "Self-Help Sheet" he handed out in his Shakespeare course — it stuck to Lenny like a burr.

Thanks to all of you who responded to our informal survey from the Summer 2024 column about iconic campus people and places. **Paul O'Donnell** SIPA'82 writes, "Miss Dee! Well, that brings back memories! I never used her typing services, but frequently saw her walking around Broadway and on campus posting her ads. Just another Morningside character, along with Sam [Steinberg], the artist and candy salesman, and the elderly lady who would set up her blanket on the quad and pluck from her basket her two ancient Chihuahuas."

Paul also reports that he enjoyed a father-son voyage this past spring. Paul and his second son, Tommy, who recently completed his service in the Army, traveled to Croatia, Bosnia/Herzegovina and Amsterdam. They spent a week in the sacred village of Medjugorje with a group from their parish.

Richard Baugh writes, "Sorry, Miss Dee. I actually took a typing class in high school, so I hammered out my own papers. I don't recall any classmates engaging her or a competitor, but I don't remember my friends being typists either, so I don't how they got the papers done! As to the tunnels, I took the one from Carman to John Jay once or twice, only to turn back when I encountered doors that I elected not to open. Neither Tom's nor College Inn was remarkable, but my friends who cared preferred Tom's, so I went there more often. Ta-Kome over Mama Joy's, in part because I had to be price conscious, carefully spending dollars earned from various work-study jobs. Mama's was definitely better, and over time, as my budget permitted, I visited Mama's more frequently. Now, Chicken Gourmet, where you could order by the piece, was a favorite and I ate many of its signature 'keels.' (A keel was a kind of sideways breast cut, about the size of your fist, maybe a bit smaller, but almost all meat with just the breastbone in the center.) When my parents came for graduation — literally the only time either ever set foot in NYC — they loved Chicken Gourmet. The Green Tree Restaurant on Amsterdam had memorable dishes, several that I've never seen anywhere else: cold cherry soup, stuffed cabbage, stuffed veal breast and roast goose. Three other establishments that I frequented were La Bella China, La Nueva Victoria and Yung Yuan, and on occasion, Symposium, with the tree growing in the middle of the dining area."

We're curious how that tree is doing, given that unlike most of the other establishments Rich mentions, Symposium is still standing.

Rich continues, "I'd be remiss not to mention Amir's Falafel, which opened after our freshman year, and became my favorite hole-in-the-wall place. The menu, beyond falafel, was primarily shish kebab, kofta kebab and kibbe, along with hummus, baba ghanoush and knock-you-on-your-arse Middle Eastern coffee that they boiled up over the charcoal."

Marc Mazur continues his work with Brightwood Capital Advisors, where he is a senior adviser and sits on a number of nonprofit boards. His sons, William '12 and Jamie '15, live in Los Angeles and Miami, respectively, so Marc and his wife, Nora BC'81 (née Winkelman) are road warriors. Recently, Marc shuttled to Cartagena, Colombia, to attend the wedding of **Sean D'Arcy**'s daughter, Maggie '14, a member of Columbia's undefeated swim team — a squad that was well represented at the wedding. **Lou Casali** and **Clayton Jones** also made the trek. "We had quite the time, and many toasts were made in honor of the late Bill Campbell '62, TC'64, who brought us all together 47 years ago!" Marc said.

Campbell coached Lions football 1974–79 before embarking on a remarkable business career as the chair of Intuit, a senior director at Apple and a senior adviser to Google.

Marc adds, "I and other others from our football team remember the College Inn quite well. It was an ideal destination following festivities at The Pub. The proprietor, Nick, provided us with two eggs, fries and toast for $1.07! Certainly made it a welcome place when we were all on very tight budgets."

As we've reached our publishing deadline and we continue to receive your correspondence, we hope to revisit Mama Joy's versus Ta-Kome, Tom's vs. College Inn and more on the eateries and bars of Morningside Heights. Tom's appears to have the edge, and several of you have vivid recollections of Betty the waitress, as well as the "cup o' creamo" guy with the mustache who energetically worked the counter — and the Roast "Lion" of Pork Platter. Mama's was the gourmet quality sandwich king — homemade roast beef, roast turkey, pastrami with mustard and cole slaw (and excellent roast chicken, which one correspondent recalls with nostalgia for his departed metabolism that allowed a whole chicken to be a midday weekend meal). Nonetheless, Ta-Kome still holds a special place in the hearts of many. It was convenient, cheap and had a tasty meatball sandwich.

As for the wraithlike Miss Dee and her ubiquitous flyers, she remains a mystery. We have not yet discovered anyone who engaged her services. Help us resolve this one!

1982

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Now that I have gotten my first Class Notes behind me, I am settled in and ready to lead the great Class of '82 in *CCT* going forward.

SUBMIT A CLASS NOTES PHOTO

- Photos must feature at least two College alumni.
- All photos must be submitted using the online webform **college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.**
- Photos that do not meet the size parameters for print will run online.

After an unconventional spring on campus, we had a spectacular Class Day on the soccer field, where Dean Josef Sorett gave a wonderful sendoff speech to the graduating seniors, including **Mike Schmidtberger**'s daughter Mollie '24.

As the Class of '24 departs, we welcome newish Head Football Coach Jon Poppe, who arrived with a distinguished pedigree as an assistant for many years at Harvard and at Columbia (working under Al Bagnoli, whom we thank for his special time at CU).

I am proud to report that our class, led by **Jeff Peters** and **Chris Meininger** BUS'87, is the first class with 100 percent participation in the Columbia Football Players Club in 2023–24.

Great work, Jeff and Chris, and let's keep it going!

John Vota LAW'85 sends his regards. He has moved on from investment banking to becoming president of a manufacturing company in Oklahoma. If you happen to be passing through, reach out to him at jvota@blackbirdcp.com.

We wish him well in his new venture.

My junior year roommate, and baseball exemplar, **Joe Piscina**, and his wife, Mary, have exited Westchester County and now split their time among New York City, Cape Cod and other travels.

Not too shabby!

Greg Nabhan continues to do great things at Bank of America, where he is a vice-chair. In his spare time, Greg is a regular on the squash courts on weekend mornings at The Apawamis Club in Rye, N.Y. (and I hear he is a strong player).

Finally, I received a long and special message from **Randy Pearce** (pearcelaw1@aol.com). Randy is in contact with **Greg Gennaro**, Steve Resor, Sean D'Arcy '81, Jim Oschal '83, **Mike Brown**, **Rob Sbarra** and the families of deceased alums Jeff Pash and Patrick Sages '81. Randy says his wife, Nancy, has "put up with him for 45 years"; he has three grown kids and five grandkids under the age of 2.5.

Most impressively, Randy has operated his own 10-person boutique law firm in Hackensack, N.J., for 38 years, handling litigation, real estate, municipal law and employment law. Randy relates he loves his job and feels like he has "never worked a day in his life"!

Going forward classmates, please send me more terrific emails like Randy's. Also, I will be requesting more updates this fall; please respond.

Before we know it, Columbia Reunion 2027 will be right around the corner. Those interested in helping with planning through the Reunion Committee can contact me via email.

1983

Roy Pomerantz
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Greetings, classmates.

PJ Pesce: "I still regularly see **Simon Black** and **Michael Calabrese** for dinners and parties.

"A group of us that includes Louis Tilmont, **Gideon Besson**, my old roommate **Darius Sollohub** and David Korish '84 all regularly wish each other happy birthday.

"I recently returned from a sailing trip where I was on the open ocean for two and a half weeks crossing the Pacific, from Easter Island to the Marquesas Islands, in a 47-foot sailboat with four others. After some initial heavy weather, we made it to the trade winds and had gorgeous sailing the rest of the way. In Hiva Oa I spent three days getting an elaborate tattoo that, in the tradition of the Marquesas, reflects my life as a father, husband, filmmaker, writer, storyteller, musician and sailor.

"Also, I'm proud to recount that the bandmate of my son Paolo (Berklee College of Music '27), Wyatt Nash '28, is now at the College. We gave him a hardcover copy of the Lattimore translation of *The Iliad* to welcome him into the family. Their band, Great Big Cow, recently sold out The Troubadour in Los Angeles and can be found on Spotify."

David Klein: "Alma mater has failed miserably, and I never believed that Columbia would be a protective haven for antisemitic behavior and vile hatred where Jews are clearly threatened because they are Jewish. Actions speak louder than words and it is a huge disappointment to see how the administration has failed. For shame!"

Jon Ross: "Our project in Nepal continues to go well. We have made great progress on the new house for our beneficiary family under the watchful eyes of our in-country project manager.

"A few of you have asked what my project days are like in Sri Lanka, and what leads up to construction. So ...

"After deciding whether to use a contractor/foreman or do that task myself, I get bids and material prices. In this case, the family had someone they liked, and he would bring his crew and miscellaneous equipment, which is one reason I like to contract with someone like that.

"Once we start the project (or projects, in general), I go into 'construction mode,' which is slow and meditative. Atypically, here, I am living at the worksite. In the mornings, I confer with the family, who, in this case, is acting as interpreter with the construction guys, and make sure that we don't need any additional materials or specialized tools for the day.

"Once the crew is working in the morning, I have time to exercise (stretching/yoga here, because it's so hot), meditate, eat some fruit and nuts, and do emails — like this one.

"Later in the day, I photograph the work in progress for updates. Then I might go for a walk into town.

"Usually, I cook rice and curry for a late lunch. But sometimes I go to a local place where they have a buffet of Sri Lankan fare (rice and curry) for 1,000 rupees, about $3.

"And here in Hambantota, I occasionally have late-afternoon tea with our beneficiary family from 2010.

"At the end of the construction workday, I meet with the current beneficiary-family interpreter to see what materials we used and look at the receipts for deliveries we received.

"Then I update the QuickBooks accounting logs for the project (calculating the exchange rate in USD) and decide if we need more Sri Lankan currency.

"And I connect with our Nepal project manager for our daily update on that project.

"The worksite in Sri Lanka is more scenic this time. And there is a distinct difference in the structural steel for the columns in both projects. That's the difference between building a three-story structure in an earthquake zone in Nepal and building a small shop in a tidal-wave zone in Sri Lanka.

"At Micro Aid, it is important that a project manager is on site every day, as there is always some decision to be made or materials to buy. And of course, we don't leave until the project is done and we hand the keys to our beneficiary families.

"We are having a huge impact on people's lives — helping them thrive after a disaster has destroyed their homes.

"In the places we work, there are no social safety nets, no insurance and no government assistance. Without Micro Aid, these families would have no recourse; they would never be able to rebuild on their own.

"Thank you for supporting this important work. Wishing us all the best from Serendib."

Love to all. Everywhere!

1984

Dennis Klainberg
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What a great 40th reunion!

Many thanks, first and foremost, to the Reunion Committee: **John Feeney, Douglas Mintz, Langham Gleason, Larry Kane, Richard Campo** and **Carlton Wessel.**

Thanks to the classmates who joined us: **David Adler, John Basile, Jeffrey Binstock, Newton Burkett, Antonio Cancio, Stuart Cane, Thomas Chaleki, Daniel Cohen, Patrick Conroy, David Cowan, Phil Donahue, David Godfried, Douglas Gordin, Eldridge Gray, Patricia Huie, Lawrence Kane, Evan Kingsley, Neil Lane, David Levingston, Douglas Lindgren, William Maxwell, Brian Murphy, Christopher Nollet, Robert Pegal, Richard Rodriquez, Kurt Roeloffs, Thomas Samuelson, Paul Schwartzbaum, Drew Scopelliti, Mark Simon, John Stackfleth, Ronald Thompson, Kenneth Tung, Jim Weinstein** and **Robert Zecker.**

Thanks to BC'84 grads Debbie Mazel; Yvonne Serras; Benette Gilbert, who officially joined us despite the classwide cancelation across Broadway; and Lynn Kestin Sessler and Eve Shalley, whom I bumped into on their way to a celebration with Yvonne's family.

Thanks, Class of '79, for inviting us to your Stag Party (bowling and libations!) at Bowlero Chelsea Piers on Friday night, and thanks for joining us, along with SEAS'84, at our reception and dinner on Saturday. Your gift — securing James J. Valentini, dean emeritus of the College and

a professor of chemistry, as our guest speaker — was most appreciated.

Thank you, David Filosa '82, president of the Society of Columbia Graduates and emcee of the yearly Great Teacher Awards, for attending our reunion, and taking into consideration my public plea to honor Professor Karl-Ludwig Selig posthumously next year.

Thank you, **Niko Kallas,** who followed me at the podium (and I assure you, this was not planned) with a reading of Professor Selig's famous exposition on the superiority of the College, published in the 1975 *Columbian* (gifted to me by neighbor and friend Dr. Joe Halio '74), which I've sent — and will gladly resend — to all classmates.

See you at Homecoming on Saturday, Oct. 26!

1985

REUNION 2025
MAY 29–31

Jonathan White
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Arizona led the way as the current home of two classmates.

Gregory Jarrin attended two graduations this past spring. "Our youngest daughter and child graduated from college. Now I feel really old. Chloe finished Saint Mary's College of California with a B.S. She will pursue a career as a physician assistant. She will stay in the Bay Area, obtaining the clinical hours necessary for her application. Felicia graduated from NYU with a master's in English. The ceremony was held at the Beacon Theatre, on the Upper West Side. My wife, Vanessa, and I attended the beautiful ceremony. The students were able to voice their opinions about world events with their garb, signs or flags. There was a spontaneous chant near the end. The dean of the graduate school encouraged students to respect each other and the event itself during her opening speech. Students did exactly that while still being able to express their views.

"Our two sons are in graduate school. Luke is at the University of Arizona in vet school. Julian is obtaining an M.F.A. in theater light design at the University of Arkansas. They finish in August 2025 and May 2026, respectively.

"Vanessa and I have moved to Phoenix. We left the White Mountain Apache Reservation and transferred to Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and Veterans Affairs. Vanessa will be in charge of the nursing department at ICE in Eloy, and I am the deputy chief of surgery at the Phoenix VA. We started July 1. We have spent more than 45 years between us with the Indian Health Service. We will miss our patients and colleagues. It is a bittersweet transition.

"We spent last Thanksgiving in Mexico City. It was a wonderful trip. We enjoyed seeing pyramids built by the Aztec, Frida Kahlo's Blue House and El Centro. The food, art and energy were fabulous. We hope to attend festivities this year for our 40th reunion."

Philip Ivory is the director of the Tucson branch of The Writers Studio, which was founded in 1987 by Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Philip Schultz and offers writing workshops designed to help students discover and nurture their voice. The school welcomes students at all stages, from those who have only dreamed of writing fiction, poetry or creative nonfiction to those with M.F.A.s, hungry for additional serious, ongoing instruction. Students provide the desire to write and the willingness to learn while The Writers Studio provides the structure, technical know-how, professional feedback and the friendly community to enable them to reach their full potential. In-person classes are offered in Tucson, New York, San Francisco and Italy, but online classes are also available at writerstudio.com.

In his creative work, Philip often relies upon his grounding in great literature provided by Lit Hum and such professors as Wallace Gray and Howard Schless and remembers the inspiration and encouragement of creative writing professor Raymond Kennedy. Philip's short fiction has appeared in *Ghost Parachute, Menacing Hedge, The Airgonaut, Bewildering Stories,* and the anthology *The Writers Studio at 30.* He lives with his cats, Apollo and Luna, in Tucson, where he is a caretaker for his sister, Elizabeth. He blogs at writeyourselfsane.com and is finalizing a novel that explores the dreams, darkness and danger of childhood.

After 18 years in Korea, **Nelson Ahn** is back in New York and has joined Hunton Andrews Kurth. He advises South Korean and non-Korean businesses on domestic and cross-border transactions, and operational and regulatory matters. Nelson has more than 30 years of private and public sector experience in South Korea and the United States. He was a member of the self-regulation committee of the Korea Financial Investment Association and a senior counselor to Deputy Prime Minister Kwon Oh Kyu at the Ministry of Strategy and Finance, advising on matters relating to the development of the Korean financial services industry. Nelson previously worked at Lee & Ko and at Kim & Chang, and he was a partner at Sidley Austin and Winston & Strawn. He earned a J.D. from Boston College Law School.

In my more than 40 years of affiliation with Columbia, I have never been so torn and upset as I am with the events on campus this past spring. Several fellow class correspondents have been receiving input from classmates since last fall.

Dug Falby, who made the understatement of the year in classifying this as a "really weird time," forwarded his blog post: bit.ly/3Sndk2r.

I wanted to share a letter from **Mark Rothman** that he sent to President Minouche Shafik earlier this year:

"Dear President Shafik,

"Thank you for completely caving to the minority that has now succeeded in holding Columbia and its values hostage to the radical and the uninformed.

"I am thoroughly disgusted with your leadership and lack of courage. Why did you not stand strong after you first had the encampment cleared and lockdown the campus then? Instead your attempts at dialogue — with people that had no interest in true dialogue — emboldened and strengthened their ultimately violent insurgency.

"My heart breaks for all those students who had nothing to do with the protests who have now lost out on the experience of the main Commencement. And this after parents and other family members and loved ones have bought airplane tickets, made lodging reservations, rearranged their personal schedules to be there.

"After the riots of 1968 Columbia went through a tragic decline, not to begin its resurrection until the 1980s. You have now set the school on what I predict will be an even deeper trajectory.

"All this is what weeks of silence and days of inaction have wrought. The entire Board should resign in shame. ...

"I speak as the middle of 3 generations of alumni (Louis Rothman of blessed memory, CC'57, Eitan Rothman SEAS'17).

"Many of us have served on the Alumni [Representative] Committee, been involved with reunion, and/or fundraised for the class (in my case, all three). ..."

I also heard from **Rob Ripin, John Phelan, Andrew Miller** and **Barry Schwartz.** Feel free to drop me a note even if you don't have news to report.

Finally, thanks to so many of you for your thoughts and good wishes on my family's various medical travails. Pleased to report that my wife Allison BC'86's recovery from lung cancer surgery continues to be smooth, and her spinal fusion surgery went very well. My cataract surgery went well, and my vision is restored to 20-20 (with the help of glasses for distance). Feel incredibly fortunate and look forward to a less stressful and healthy balance of the year.

Regards to all. Reunion is next June; info to follow.

1986

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Happy 60th! I confess that this is my least favorite milestone birthday so far, but let's all agree that 60 is the new 50. Let me know how

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you celebrated. I planned a trip in August to Greece, which I last visited 35 years ago.

Chris Dwyer: "I live in Wynnewood, Pa. (outside Philly), with my wife, Adriana Monferre, and son, Daniel, who graduates from West Chester University next year — along with our yellow Lab, Jasmine (11), and black Lab, Bucky (3). Recently, after six years as chief financial officer of The Baldwin School in Bryn Mawr (a pre-K–12 all-girls day school), I have taken on that same role at The Pennington School in Mercer County, N.J. (coed, grades 6–12, day and boarding)."

Mitch Earleywine: "My wife and I recently celebrated our 26th anniversary. Gave a talk at the National Institute on Drug Abuse on psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy, which was well received by younger folks and a bit 'sus' (as our kids might say) to the senior investigators."

Glenn Chernigoff: "After almost 30 years as a government attorney, for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and the Department of Justice, I retired from federal service in August. Looking forward to continuing to practice part time."

Craig Fenster: "On May 18, Tony O'Shea '87 organized a reunion of roughly 30 Phi Ep (and Phi Ep adjacent) alumni from the '70s to the '90s at The Joyce Public House in Midtown. I can't name everyone who was there, to protect the innocent (you might contact Tony at anthonyoshea900@gmail.com to see if he has a final list). The Class of '86 attendees I remember are **Chad Atkins, Ward Bobitz** (in from London), **Bob Goetz, Dave McCarty** (in from Ohio), **Russell Stoll** (in from Virginia), and Coach Daniel Ireland and his son Jacob Ireland '24. It was great to see so many people whom many of us had not seen in 20 or more years."

1987

Sarah A. Kass
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Jonathan Wald sent in the following: "In March, the Journalism School held a celebration of the life of my father, Richard C. Wald '52, GSAS'53, who died at 92 in May 2022. He was on the board of *Spectator,* a foreign correspondent and last managing editor at *The New York Herald Tribune,* president of NBC News and an SVP at ABC News. He taught at the J-School for years. Here are the obits from *CCT* (bit.ly/3WvWSPX) and *The New York Times* (bit.ly/3zV9TtC).

"The gathering took place as the campus entered its first week of lockdown because of protests, and I'm sure my father would've been extremely proud of the job the entire *Spec* staff did in reporting the hell out of the crisis.

"Speakers included J-School dean Jelani Cobb, a number of Columbia colleagues and family members, including my brother, Matthew, who spent his career as a reporter at the *NYT;* my sister, Elizabeth, a lawyer; and me."

Jonathan also said that he has taken on several new projects after 35 years running shows and programming at NBC, CNBC, CNN and MSNBC. He recently launched *The Don Lemon Show* on YouTube and all other platforms.

W. Murray Sexton wrote that his film *Red Velvet: The Roadkill Armadillo Groom's Cake Sings the Dark Understory of* Steel Magnolias, won Best Super Short Film Winter 2024 at the Portland Alternative Voices Film Festival.

Diana Moreinis Nasser is on the executive board of the Columbia College Alumni Association; world VP of the Women's Division of Keren Hayesod (UIA) - United Israel Appeal in São Paulo, Brazil; and president of the International Women's Division of Keren Hayesod of South America, Spain and Portugal.

She wrote, "I recently became a grandmother, and reside in São Paulo."

Garth Stein SOA'90, who is welcoming his first grandchild as well, wrote, "I walked the Camino de Santiago in May and June — The French Way, 780 km across Spain. It was transformative!"

Suze Villano updates us: "I recently started an executive master's in nonprofit administration program at Mendoza College of Business at the University of Notre Dame! I'm in a two-week intensive [as I write this] (human resources and accounting) and am enjoying the challenges and getting to know my diverse cohort from around the country.

"It'll likely take me several years, as I will continue working full time as the administrator for the ND Children's Choir. While many of my friends are considering retirement, I am doing the opposite — and loving it!"

Rowing under the King's Crown Rowing Association/Neubayern banner at the Head of the Passaic Regatta on Oct. 15, 2023, in Riverside County Park, Lyndhurst, N.J., were back row, left to right, Tom Marvin '98, Mike McCarthy '83, Peter Ross '87, Eric Genden '87, Scott MacCormack '89, Jim Murphy '88, Carl Eierle '88 and Terry Waldron SEAS'82; and front row, left to right, Deborah Culhane (friend of the KCRA) and Julia Tolentino BC'10.

Sally Patrone was selected for a group art show at bG Gallery in Santa Monica, "Spectrum Gestalt 2024," featuring a variety of contemporary art. Sally said, "I also do commissions!"

Remember, this column is nothing without you. Please feel free to drop me a note anytime.

1988

Eric Fusfield
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As a Columbia freshman oarsman, I appreciated hearing from **Jim Murphy** that he and **Carle Eirele** joined other Columbia alumni in a successful fall 2023 rowing season under the King's Crown Rowing Association/Neubayern banner. "The team rowed five regattas and eight races, winning medals in every race but one," Jim reported. Other team members included Dave Filosa '82, Eric Genden '87, Scott MacCormack '89, Tom Marvin '98, Mike McCarthy '83, Peter Ross '87, Terry Waldron SEAS'82 and Julia Tolentino BC'10. (See the nearby photo.)

"The KCRA is an organization of Columbia rowing alumni whose primary purpose is to support Columbia crew," Jim added. "The team thanks the Columbia coaches for supporting this initiative. For 2024, we were looking to expand the team with younger alumni."

Great news from the Love family. **Sheryl Hoke Love** and **Thomas Love** celebrated the graduation of their son Brian '24, who majored in computer science and mathematics. Meanwhile, I celebrated the June graduation of my daughter Esther from elementary school, where she took a liking to crocheting, but we have plenty of time to plan for the greater glory to come.

John McHugh "attended his 30-year medical school reunion, and realized how much he is looking forward to his 40-year (gasp) Columbia reunion in 2028! Great seeing how many classmates are taking up a new passion and learning something new," he wrote.

Eve Makoff GSAS'89 said, "I am the regional medical director of the AltaMed PACE program in Los Angeles. Since the pandemic, I've been writing about and publishing patient stories and also got an M.S. in narrative medicine from Keck Medicine of USC. This practice teaches healthcare providers to slow down and attend more closely to patient stories. I'm co-editing a narrative medicine guidebook due out in 2025. My kids are 23, 21 and 19!"

Some of us have kids who are in college or have already graduated.

Others, like me, whose son Manny had his bar mitzvah this past spring, are still looking ahead to becoming college parents. With antisemitism on the increase on college campuses and as demonstrations grow fiery, I was glad to see several classmates join an online petition calling on the Columbia administration to take action to ensure the safety of Jewish students. I hear from multiple classmates that this issue is weighing heavily on them, but we all hope that campus and school administrators across the country will address this issue with the seriousness it deserves.

Keep the updates coming! We look forward to hearing from you.

1989

Emily Miles Terry
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This past spring some classmates gathered on campus and off to celebrate our friendships and mark our 35th reunion. Here's a snapshot of the event, which was sadly on the smaller side this year.

It began on Friday where, during the day, you could find **Jared Goldstein** helping with an alumni Upper West Side walking tour and infusing it with both his passion for NYC and professional historical tour expertise. **Lisa Carnoy** went above and beyond to arrange a special tour for us in the private stacks of Butler and moderated a panel on Jewish life on campus that many classmates took the time to respectfully attend or watch online. Our class events kicked off that night off campus at the UWS bar and restaurant Asset, arranged by Reunion Committee leaders **Kaivan Shakib, Matt Engels, Jenn Ryan, Thomas Chu** and **Jared Goldstein.** Many of us had strong feelings about events on campus and it was comforting to be together to discuss and support one another during this turbulent time. Some of those in attendance included **Jon Sturt**, who had flown in from Chamonix, France, where he and his family have lived for several years; **Duchesne Drew,** a University trustee, and his wife, Angela Davis, in from St. Paul; and **Barry Hartheimer,** who walked from his nearby NYC apartment.

The West Coast was well represented with **Erik Price, Mike Schrag, David Streitfeld** and Adina Safer BC'89, and there were many alums from the Tri-State area, such as **Jeff Udell; Roger Rubin; Jenn Ryan; Patrick Ryan SEAS'89; Chris Della Pietra;** Amy Lai BC'89; **Stephanie Falcone Bernik; Kurt Bridges SEAS'89; Alex Margolies; Julie Margolies; Kirk Ruddy; Cristina Benedetto-LaPlaca; Rob LaPlaca;** Dimitra Kessenides BC'89; **Sarah Russell Spray; Raymond Yu;** and **Luis Penalver** and his wife, Elizabeth Davis BC'89; plus alums from the Midwest and Washington, D.C., including **Jason Carter, Dave Winter** and **Patrick Murray;** and from the south, **Renny Smith.**

The other days and events included sunset and dinner at Chelsea Piers and Faculty House, where attendance was small but there were still many friendly and familiar faces.

Right before dinner at Faculty House (Kaivan arranged this), there was a Kappa Delta Rho fraternity get together nearby where **John Alex, Victor Mendelson, John MacPhee, Barry Hartheimer, Steve Metalios** and others gathered.

At Faculty House **Donna MacPhee** welcomed our class and, in his brief remarks before our class dinner, **Matt Engels** revisited our days at the College and commented that "compared to our friends from other schools, our Class of '89 has faced uniquely divisive issues and while our class has a full spectrum of passionate advocates from one side or the other, the exchange of ideas makes our class better and more united. The challenges to what we thought and how we thought while at Columbia made us stronger as individuals and defined the Class of '89."

After dinner we sang happy birthday to **Lisa Carnoy** (Kaivan brought the cake, too, of course) and visited with **Ajay Dubey** and his brother **Anil Dubey; Laura Cantrell,** a singer-songwriter who lives in Nashville (I begged Laura to sing at our next reunion, and I think she agreed to it); **Dolores Fernandez Alonso,** president and CEO of PBS in south Florida; **Anthony Calenda,** a contract CFO at Custham Advisory in NYC; and **Tajlei Levis,** a playwright and lyricist in NYC. **Debra Rosenzweig** drove from Brattleboro, Vt., on Saturday for the dinner. She hadn't attended since our 25th and says she enjoyed reconnecting with friends from Carman 4 like **Jenn Ryan, Steve Chulik SEAS'89** and **Sue Loring. Michael Behringer** brought his big smile to the room. I also visited with **Souren Ouzounian,** who is a vice-chair at UBS in NYC and his lovely wife, Carol; **Stephanie Spencer,** who was in from Washington State; and **Steve Mack,** who came in from the West Coast and is a professor of pediatrics at UCSF.

At the end of the night classmates were gifted wine from Brent Bessire '91's award-winning Sonoma-based winery, Fogline Vineyards (thanks to Kaivan, again). **Wid Hall SEAS'89** impressed us with his super-sharp memory of our days at Columbia — somehow he seems to remember both small and large moments of our late '80s era in great, sometimes frightening, detail.

Off campus I had the pleasure of running into **Rebecca Fine, Sam Marchiano,** Nancy Mendelson Gates BC'89, Brett Cohen Levy BC'89 and **Bo Hansen SEAS'89,** all super kind and interesting people with whom I never get enough time.

I'm truly thankful for the great efforts of our Reunion Committee volunteers, the hard working and flexible Alumni Office staff and the many alumni who showed up. Though it's only been five years, our world and our campus is so completely different. It almost feels like our 30th was a different place and time. Thankfully our friendships shine on.

I had the opportunity to speak with **Gina Shishima,** who lives in Austin with her professor husband and their three children. Like me, Gina is from southern California, which is how (we think?) we originally got to know each other at Columbia, but time has made those details blurry. After Columbia, Gina earned a Ph.D. in microbiology from Princeton and a law degree from UC Berkeley. Gina, who is Norton Rose Fulbright's U.S. chief strategy and operations partner, was awarded a 2024 Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award by the American Bar Association, which recognizes women lawyers for their professional excellence and work supporting other women lawyers. Throughout her career, Gina has played a key role in a variety of her firm's initiatives that support women lawyers at the firm. In addition, Gina co-chaired the Women's Leadership Network of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association after being on its Board of Governors. She is also on the Executive Committee for the Center for Women in Law, in addition to being on the Board of Directors for Advancing Justice in Washington, D.C.

1990

REUNION 2025
MAY 29–31

Rachel Cowan Jacobs
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I was happy to hear from **Marian Wright,** although her news was not all good. She told me, "Very sadly, my husband, Greg Boester, passed away unexpectedly last December, but I was much comforted to see at his February service many CC'90 buddies, including **Gabriel Kra, Jenny Harvey** (née Thompson), **Margaret Flynn Robinson, Jeremy Manning** and **Ted Acworth SEAS'90.** Years ago, Greg and I started a College scholarship fund, Moxie's Creative Intellect. You can guess from the name what sort of people we look to help on their Columbia journey. We have had the pleasure of meeting many impressive scholars through the years.

"My son, Rhodes Boester '28, graduated from Rye Country Day School in June and joined the College this fall! We are thrilled and very proud. He is our last to fly the nest, and I am in the process of downsizing and relocating, most likely to southeastern Connecticut to escape New York taxes but not too far to jump on the train to see Rhodes or my oldest son, Cole, who graduated from Colgate in 2023 and works in finance. Middle son Wyatt is a junior at sunny University of Miami, having transferred from frigid Colby College."

In the unofficial tally I'm keeping, that's now four members of Class of 2028 with a CC'90 parent.

Speaking of sunny places, this past spring **Rachel Waldron** (née Droisen) wrote to tell me about a weekend getaway in Palm Beach, Fla., she had with **Amy Katzenberg** and **Barbara Bratter.** (Go to this column online at college.columbia.edu/cct to see a photo!)

Amy lives in Palm Beach with her husband, David Morgan. She runs a nonprofit, Health, Hope & Hip-Hop Foundation, which works to eliminate healthcare disparities.

Barbara also works in the nonprofit world, sitting on three Houston social service nonprofit boards. She lives in Houston but spends extended summers in the Berkshires.

Rachel is an ER physician and lives in Savannah. Rachel, her husband, Mike, and their four children, who are 30, 27, 19 and 15, moved to Savannah in 2015 from Long Island. After years and years of her working as an ER doctor in a Queens hospital, they got fed up with bad Long Island weather and decided to head south. The joke might have been on them because shortly after moving, they went through two hurricanes and a tropical storm, but it's been quiet since, Rachel reports. When not at work, she steadily improves her tennis game. They love the weather in Savannah, except for in June, July and August, but they head back to Long Island to visit her mother to escape the sweltering heat. Rachel claims to have found good bagels, pizza and sushi in Savannah!

Also writing in from down south is **Ijeoma Acholonu Ejeh** VPS'94, who is a general and bariatric surgeon performing robotic and laparoscopic minimally invasive surgery in Fayetteville, N.C. In 2023, she went on several medical mission trips, including to Dubai, Mexico and Jamaica. Ijeoma also fit in leisure travel to Europe and Nigeria, where she did some medical mission work on the side. You are reading this column in the fall, and Ijeoma's youngest child is a first-year at University of Pittsburgh, her middle child a junior at Columbia and her oldest a 2024 graduate of The George Washington University. She can't believe she and her husband are empty-nesters! She attended Columbia's Family Days in October 2023 to visit son Arinze '26 and was disappointed not to bump into any CC'90 classmates but is hoping to see some (and I will change that to most) of us on campus for reunion in 2025. (So am I!) Ijeoma is in touch with **Diane Nagler** (née Morse), who lives on Long Island, and **Karin Small**, who practices medicine in Ohio.

Ijeoma says if anyone's ever in Fayetteville, or more likely Raleigh, feel free to get in touch.

A year ago in these pages I told you to keep your eyes out for **Rick Minnich**'s film *The Presidents' Tailor.* The wait is over. The film celebrated its world premiere in June at the Jewish Film Festival Berlin-Brandenburg and at the DocEdge Film Festival in New Zealand. It tells the story of Martin Greenfield, a Holocaust survivor who went on to make suits for six U.S. Presidents and hundreds of celebrities. Rick was in Washington, D.C., and Silver Spring, Md., in June for his film *The Strait Guys,* which I wrote about a couple of columns ago. It screened at the AFI Theater in Silver Spring as part of the Nepal America International Film Festival. You can watch both films online: bit.ly/3xYGfDd.

In other celebrity news, **Steve Winick**, our folklore specialist at the Library of Congress and American Folklife Center — wait, I can stop right there. This past June, he spent a few weeks with Natalie Merchant helping her research and select songs for a concert she gave at the LOC. How do I know this? Because she thanked him by name on her Facebook page.

On April 26, Columbia College Women hosted its annual Signature Event, this year called Women in Sports: Life Lessons for Tomorrow's Leaders. Outgoing CCW president **Margaret Flynn Robison** and then-incoming president **Nancy Pak** BUS'95 organized the program, which was moderated by Sam Marchiano '89 and featured Central Park Track Club and Atalanta NYC head coach **Devon Martin**, Ishwara Glassman Chrein '02, SIPA'03; Katie Mieli '13; and Nzingha Prescod '15. Many alumnae, current students and student-athletes attended this successful gathering.

I know you know when our next successful gathering will be, and I look forward to seeing you at our 35th reunion in late spring. Mark your calendar, put in for vacation days and make your travel plans for an in-person reunion for which all 1990 graduates are overdue.

1991

Heather E.G. Brownlie
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[Editor's note: *CCT* thanks **Heather E.G. Brownlie** for her four years of service as class correspondent; this is her last column. Please read on for info on her replacement.]

Left to right, Josh Margulies '92, Kevin O'Connor '92, Ben Appen '92, Adam Ducker '93, Bob Guay '92 and Jason "J." Milligan '92 had a mini-reunion in Morningside Heights on Jan. 15.

Heather E.G. Brownlie writes: "As I write this, summer is in full swing and a return to campus for the fall is imminent. It has been so enjoyable to keep in touch with all of you and hear about what everyone is doing these days! I will miss being the class correspondent tremendously, but I am leaving you in the very capable hands of **Susie Wood**, who has graciously agreed to take over for me and will start with the next issue, Winter/Spring 2025.

"Please join me in welcoming Susie, and please help her out by sending all the news you might not have had a chance to share for this issue to susiedc@yahoo.com, or via the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note! Photos go right to *CCT* via the webform college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo."

Susie shares, "I work at the State Department in Washington, D.C., and would love to see any Columbians who come through the area. I have a daughter who is 19 and a sophomore at Virginia Tech and another daughter in 10th grade. I'll be in D.C. for a few more years before I head out on another overseas assignment."

Noboru Ohrui SEAS'91 recently hosted Carman 8 roommate **Darin Kragenbring** in Tokyo for a mini-reunion. They had a blast catching up and reminiscing about their Columbia days!

1992

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Hello, classmates!

It has been a joy to see so many kids of classmates make their way to, and through, Columbia, even if it does reinforce how quickly time has passed since we walked Morningside Heights. This year, I heard from **Peter Hatch** and **Dan Herman**, who texted in real time as the latter's son Otto '24 walked at Class Day. First: Congratulations, Otto! Second: Wow, it's been a minute since Dan was in 701B Carman and I was in 701A, or both of us lived in H402 East Campus. (I won't share the text exchange here; it was a little salty.)

I also heard from fellow Carman 7 resident **Cliff Blaze**, who attended the Olympic swimming trials in Indianapolis with **Scott Kitzman**; see the nearby photo of them with Columbia men's swimming and diving head coach Jim Bolster.

Kevin O'Connor sent word (and the nearby photo) of a mini-reunion that was held in January. Kevin, **Josh Margulies**, **Ben Appen**, **Bob**

At the Olympic swimming trials, held at the Indianapolis Colts' Lucas Oil Stadium on June 19, were, left to right, Cliff Blaze '92, Columbia men's swimming and diving head coach Jim Bolster and Scott Kitzman '92.

Guay, Jason "J." Milligan and Adam Ducker '93 hit V&T and The Hungarian Pastry Shop.

This is another memory lane for me. Josh was among the first CC'92ers I met; I believe it was at Days on Campus for admitted students in spring 1988.

I also heard from **Rich Rosivach,** who popped by NYC (and Columbia). Rich is a teacher in St. Paul, Minn. He sent along two photos, one with **Peter Hatch** and **Elizabeth Mandel,** and one with Karen Sendler '94. Go to this column online at college.columbia.edu/cct to see them.

A spot of news from me: I have joined *U.S. News & World Report* as senior national political correspondent. You can find my newsletter, "Decision Points," on the site. Please subscribe, and if you subscribe, please open it every day.

I also heard from Rebecca Boston '93, SIPA'94, who delivered the terribly sad news that Lisa DeLange BC'92 (née DeMairo) passed away on July 22, 2023. May her memory be a blessing (bit.ly/4d75Po8).

And that wraps up this edition of Class Notes. Send me your updates! This column only works when you decide to update your class on your goings on.

Class Notes are submitted by alumni and edited by volunteer class correspondents and the staff of CCT prior to publication. Opinions expressed are those of individual alumni and do not reflect the opinions of CCT, its class correspondents, the College or the University. By submitting to Class Notes, you acknowledge that the text is eligible to appear in print as well as on CCT online and in archives.

1993

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With so much upsetting news coming from campus, we're going to focus here on all the fun stuff coming from classmates. So without any further build-up, let's get to it.

I took my 9-month-old son, Riley, to Fenway Park for his first baseball game on June 1. We stopped in Newton to see dear friend **Betsy Gomperz,** her husband, Mike Pacinda, and their sons to introduce them to the little guy. The Pacindas were in the midst of celebrating son Thomas' graduation from Newton North H.S. He's off to Bates College now, where he will be part of the rowing team. Will finished his sophomore year of high school and this summer was a counselor in training at Camp Timanous in my home state of Maine.

My buddy **Alan Freeman** had a lot of news. On the professional side, he reported, "I'm excited to share that after 27 years practicing law in the Washington, D.C., office of Blank Rome and its pre-merger predecessor, I resigned from the partnership to join my client Uncommon Cures as its chief strategy officer and general counsel. The company is a rare disease clinical research organization with a mission to reduce the cost and time to completion of rare disease clinical trials. It's no coincidence that this move comes almost a year to the day after our 30th reunion panel on career transitions after 50!"

On the personal front, the job switch provided Alan and his wife, Remy, an opportunity to take an extended vacation in Europe, where they made good on a promise to visit with **Jennifer Dahlberg** in Stockholm. They and son Matthew, a senior at the University of Rochester, "had a terrific time dining over traditional Swedish dishes (no Surströmming) with Jen, her husband, Christian, and their son, James, late into the night (although the Northern sky remained disconcertingly bright even as midnight approached)."

Since her name came up, and she has become a mainstay of these columns after last year's reunion, Jen chimed in with her own version of events, in which she said she had no fun at all with the Freemans, and she was thrilled when they said goodbye.

NO! Just kidding. She actually said, "I had the pleasure of dining with Alan, Remy and Matthew in Stockholm. We had some deep conversations about life, politics and recent campus events. It was an evening made possible because Alan so kindly recruited me for the reunion panel and we reconnected, so the evening felt extra special. Our Columbia connection makes catching up so easy, and having our sons meet was a full-circle moment."

Jennifer was recently elected to the Columbia Alumni Association Board: "The University is facing challenging times, but I hope I can make a positive contribution."

Indeed, the College is in desperate need of them.

Sophomore suitemate **Adam Fels,** name checked in the last column, decided to add to his story by writing in. Adam got remarried in 2020, adding two stepdaughters to the two daughters from his first marriage. The oldest is a sophomore at Barnard and the second is now at the University of Florida. "Before seeing her off," he recalled, "we crossed off a big bucket list entry for her and jumped out of a perfectly good plane together. When I'm not engaging in daredevilry, I enjoy my law practice of defending those accused of white-collar crimes, which takes me around the country. Along the way, I was fortunate to catch up in San Diego with our suitemate **Nassir Azimi,** who remains as endlessly entertaining as ever, and jamming in Brooklyn with former Carman 12 denizen **Joe Saba.**"

Other classmates wrote in to crow about major achievements. **Solangel Maldonado** LAW'96's book, *The Architecture of Desire: How the Law Shapes Interracial Intimacy and Perpetuates Inequality,* was recently published. "It examines how the law influences who we desire and choose as intimate partners and explores the psychological, economic and social consequences of these choices," she explains. Oh, and also, "My husband and I adopted a baby in October 2023. Her name is Briela. She's 8 months old [as of June 2024]."

MAZEL TOV, Solangel! We're scheduling a play date to get Briela and Riley together, tout suite!

Gabe Wilson recently finished a 19-day tour with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra in Europe as its tour physician. "It's my fourth major orchestra tour. Twice with the New York Philharmonic, once with the Houston Symphony. My day job is emergency physician in Lufkin, Texas, but I live on the Upper East Side, and commute to Texas for one week per month."

Isaiah Delemar recently completed the President's Management Council Interagency Rotation Program, saying, "It's a six-month program whose goal is to help high-potential employees develop their leadership skills and broaden their organizational experiences." During his rotation, Isaiah led a team from the Events & Culinary Operations for the U.S. Department of the Treasury in Washington, D.C. It allowed him to interact with Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen and host family and friends in the famed Treasury Dining Room, as well take them to the White House.

Old pal **Yumi Koh** joined Merrill Lynch Private Wealth Management last September and "can't believe I've been in Atlanta for seven years!"

Pavani Ram was recently appointed chief medical officer for global health at the U.S. Agency for International Development, bringing her to D.C., where she is "looking forward to catching up with Columbia alums in the region." One of those regional alums is **Kenyetta Raelyn Smith,** who recently moved there after living in Los Angeles for 20 years. Kenyetta is a screenwriter working toward directing her first feature film, which is extremely exciting. Also exciting? Terri Brantley '94 sang the national anthem at a Washington Nationals game in June. Her rendition was inspiring and so much fun to watch — and you can! (If you go to the online version of this column at college.columia.edu/cct.)

Another old friend, **Chris Raker Garcia,** wrote in about her twins, Bonnie and Gabe, graduating from Pleasantville Middle School. Chris is employed at Two Sigma as a technical program manager, and is "playing as much tennis as I can." She's also still weightlifting, and achieved a PR when she deadlifted 220 pounds. Chris has been documenting her physical transformation and achievements on social media, and it's been inspiring to follow.

Way to go, Chris!

Susan Schmeidler Blum is an attorney in Sandy Springs, Ga., and reported that her son Jonah is now at Vanderbilt. Her younger son Adam is a senior at Riverwood International Charter School, where the legendary **Buck Jenkins** recently coached the boys' basketball team to a Georgia High School Association Championship.

And finally, the fabulous **Rita Pietropinto-Kitt** shares that her son Michael '28 has joined Columbia.

Congratulations to Michael! Roar!

Which brings us to the end. Lots of people reached out this issue, so my question to you is, do you feel inspired to reach out next time? YOU TOTALLY SHOULD!

1994

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Every class should have a team as dedicated as our Reunion Committee. With tremendous thanks to **Ty Buckelew, Isaac Diggs, Matt Eddy, Derek England, Alicia Guevara, Kate Gutman, Aaron Katzel, Mason Kirby, Leyla Kokmen, Shawn Landres, Melissa Lawton, Lucy Lee, Sherry Lin, Ocean MacAdams, Alex Metzger, Eric Older, Jean Pitaro, Mark Robilotti, Rodney Ramcharan, Kong-lin Wang SEAS'94** and **Phil Winieki,** more than 200 1994 alumni arrived in NYC in the last days of May and first day of June. Each returnee was treated with a tempting mix of structured activities and adequate free time to touch back on life from 30 years ago. Many classmates who had never attended a reunion were recaptivated by campus beauty, and bewilderment that Ferris Booth Hall is no longer there, replaced by "Alfred Lerner Hall."

For those of you who were unable/unwilling to attend, here's a recap of the three days that harkened to *our* ownership of campus. On May 30, **Ty Buckelew** and **Phil Winiecki** threw the '94s a convivial welcome dinner at V&T Italian Restaurant and Pizzeria, 111th and Amsterdam. The interior has improved but the pizza, beer and dancing-on-the-table vibe still exists. Passing around plates of Italian food, salads and drinks at long tables recalled simple days and collegiate celebrations. It took no time for classmates to connect and gab. Some alumni brought their adult children who are college bound/college age or older. **Shawn Landres** thanked the hosts and set a cheerful tone.

Then, addressing the elephant in the room, Dean Josef Sorett stopped by to acknowledge that the last few months have been difficult for Columbia. Pointing to the gravities at alma mater, the chaos, the harassment, the press and the issue at hand were not going to be assuaged in a few remarks. It is likely that some classmates were dissuaded from coming back because of the tumult during the spring and the positions we take. Indeed, attendance for this milestone was lower than five years ago. However, those who were able to be there experienced a weekend full of novel encounters and the chance to meet someone for the first time who shares Lion lines.

As in the weeks before reunion, on May 31, if one were to enter campus for the presentation on "Columbia Athletics Through the Years," or "Since 1754: Judaica in Columbia's Libraries," one would have had to pass through a security check just to enter College Walk. Public access to our campus oasis had been thwarted because of the protesting. For reunion, a small contingent of tents stood on South Lawn. At times, more individuals crowded to take photos of the encampments than there were crowds of demonstrators. The protesting was conspicuous, but quiet, and signage was barely legible. Friday's off-campus activities were sold out in advance, including the vertical tour of The Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine and a Harlem Food and History Walking Tour. During the day there were fascinating colloquia on "The Lit Hum Syllabus 2024: Old and New," "The Role of Parenting in Emotional Brain Development" and "From African Masks and Picasso Through Cindy Sherman and AI," just to name a few of the nonstop topics to stimulate the intellectually curious. Friday night's offerings included an all-class Shabbat Dinner and Chelsea Piers Party. Lots of variety and lots of socializing to be taken in at one's preferred pace.

June 1 broke with a sunshiney glow to campus that would make anyone appreciate the privilege of a Columbia experience. After the Dean's Breakfast, Mike Massimino SEAS'84, a professor of mechanical engineering at Columbia, talked about his college experience, his NASA astronaut career and his teaching about space flight to undergraduates. At lunch near College Walk more and more people filled campus and many ambled over to "Crisis and Community: The Importance of the Core Curriculum in Times of Turmoil" in Havemeyer Hall. The midafternoon had specialized events for Alumni of Color, WKCR Alumni and a Veterans Reception, among other special interest groups.

Our '94-specific event on Saturday started at 5 p.m. in Alfred Lerner Hall. We were treated to thoughtful and hilarious rounds of ice-breaking questions that **Shawn Landres** designed in conjunction with **Mason Kirby, Eric Older** and **Ocean MacAdams** to establish connection. By pairing with a previously unknown classmate, we were prompted to share "a crazy thing you did at Columbia." Answers included hanging a late-night ride off a garbage truck in full black tie, surreptitiously *borrowing* an athletics team van to move a couch, etc. Paired conversationalists then joined another pair to talk in a group of four, then expanded to eight and so on. A further prompt was "Which Core subject did you like the least?" with a final round being "Name your favorite class at Columbia." Out

CHRISTINE PARLAMIS '94

Standing, left to right, Johnson Lee SEAS'94, Bert Chan SEAS'94, Stephen Fischer '94, Chris Hutmaker '94 and Jorge Salva '94, along with Jacqueline Martin '94 and Vic Tarsia '94, seated, left to right, at a pre-Columbia Reunion Weekend 2024 dinner on May 30 at V&T Italian Restaurant and Pizzeria.

ALEX METZGER '94

Celebrating their 30th reunion at Columbia Alumni Reunion 2024 on June 1 were, left to right, Samir Sinha SEAS'94, Eric Older '94, Melissa Lawton '94, Aaron Katzel '94 and Alex Metzger '94.

of the sizeable assembly, very few courses were named more than once, except Professor David Cannadine's "British History." Various courses by Professor James Shenton '49, GSAS'54 were mentioned, as were differing courses by Professor Eric Foner '63, GSAS'69 and Professor Simon Schama. Amusingly, **Patti Ahn SEAS'94**'s favorite course was C++. Sorry, no Core classes were mentioned as all-time favorites. **Phil Winiecki** closed out the meeting endorsing the 1754 Society, which is the community of those who have has mentioned Columbia in estate planning at any level of gifting.

At previous reunions, our dinner was way out, behind East Campus, but this time, we got the best seats in the house, in Low Rotunda. With a great selection of food and drinks, a manageable flow among the tables and a class photo on the stage, the dinner was festively enjoyable. At the end, we could stroll directly down the Steps to the late-night congregation of music and dancing under the stars at the Starlight Celebration on Low Plaza. People sat on the Steps, watched the world go by, said goodbye to friends and made plans for the 35th.

Sunday morning included a Mass at the Church of Notre Dame, 114th and Morningside, in conjunction with The Thomas Merton Institute.

See the two nearby photos, plus many more in this column online at college.columbia.edu/cct.

Our Reunion Committee succeeded in a great effort to build rapport in our class and keep us amused. Some in our class took time to address protesters and ask them their purpose. Alumni have a different point of view from current students, obviously, *and* from administration.

Reunions might not be your cup of tea, but with hope, your Columbia education is part of your ultimate telos to know right from wrong.

Of note, there was a memorial placard at dinner mentioning the dozen or so CC'94s who have, sadly, passed away. I say "or so" because there was an error. Although **Adam Becker**'s name was on the list, he is indeed well and with us. More on Adam in the next column.

1995

REUNION 2025
MAY 29–31

Janet Lorin
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Thanks to **Chris Tucker** GSAS'99 for answering my call for an update. He writes from Alexandria, Va., where he's lived for more than a quarter-century.

"Having helped found the CIA's venture capital fund (iqt.org) 25 years ago as its founding chief strategy officer, I still find myself in the middle of technology startups often having a lot to do with national security," he writes. "Not quite what I thought I would be doing when I got a Ph.D. in political science. Life is a journey, I guess."

Chris and his wife, Ann, have been what they describe as "prematurely empty-nesting," keeping up with their kids from afar, getting some world traveling in, and otherwise keeping focused on business and volunteer activities. Older daughter, Lily, is in Philadelphia doing a joint B.F.A. with the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts for studio arts, mostly sculpture, and Penn for liberal arts. Younger daughter, Ava, who moved away in high school to Tampa to dance at Next Generation Ballet, began at NYU in this fall now that she is officially too tall to be a professional ballerina. "Given her eventual height, the Ukraine invasion canceling her invitation to the dance at the Bolshoi seems poetic," Chris writes.

His recent TEDxPenn Talk (bit.ly/46nP0TV), "Hastening the Inevitable Demographic Revolution," builds on his book, *A Planet of 3 Billion: Mapping Humanity's Long History of Ecological Destruction and Finding Our Way to a Resilient Future - A Global Citizen's Guide to Saving the Planet,* his response to Columbia professor Joel E. Cohen's 1995 inaugural Earth Institute lecture, "How Many People Can the Earth Support?"

Chris returned to campus in November 2023 to attend the 10th annual Geography2050 of the American Geographical Society, cohosted by the Climate School. "Geography2050 is little something I am proud to have started, having been chair of the AGS now for eight-plus years," he writes. "A strange thing for a CC grad to do, after Columbia eliminated its geography department."

Grant Dawson, whom I worked with as Wien RA our junior year, is celebrating his book *International Law & Sea-Dumped Chemical Weapons.* He researched, wrote and published it in connection with his Ph.D. studies at the University of Groningen Faculty of Law. Grant successfully defended his dissertation and was awarded a Ph.D. in last December. The book is the first in-depth analysis of the international law governing the environmental remediation of sea-dumped chemical weapons.

"I am splitting my time these days between being lead legal specialist for the InterOPERA project and senior legal counsel and managing director of the Wildlife Justice Commission," Grant writes from the Hague. The purpose of Inter-OPERA, funded by the EU program for research and innovation, is to bring together a diverse set of stakeholders from the renewable energy industry to enhance offshore wind development and integration to transition Europe to sustainable energy at large scale. The mission of the Wildlife Justice Commission is to disrupt and help dismantle the criminal networks that profit from the trafficking of wildlife, timber and fish, crimes that bring species to extinction and put global security and public health at risk.

Finally, our own wine superstar, **Dan Petroski,** sold the label he started in 2009, Massican, which specializes in white wines, to E. & J. Gallo Winery last year.

Dan writes that he's excited about the future and the opportunities ahead with Massican's expansion.

"Dan makes great wine," Gallo brand manager John Irwin told *Wine Spectator.* "That's where it has to start, but credibility matters, stewardship matters, and all wine drinkers, from the collector to the novice, want an authentic experience."

1996

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Happy fall, classmates!

I had a fun run-in with **Jill Szuchmacher** in Brooklyn early in the summer. Jill lives in Park Slope with her family, and recently celebrated her 20th wedding anniversary with her wife, Naomi. Her older daughter is off to college in California, and her younger daughter is in 10th grade. Jill has worked in media, tech and telecom since we graduated. She took the summer off after many years at Google and Sony, looking at opportunities in datacenters and renewable energy. She is marking turning 50 this year by hiking the Tour du Mont Blanc, running the NYC Marathon and doing get out the vote work.

Shoutout to Jill and **Amanda Cox,** who proudly held the banner representing the Class of 1996 at Class Day this past spring.

Whitney Chiate (née Berkholtz) has been living in Malibu for three years and recently completed a master's in psychology from Harvard.

She attended the Columbia College Alumni Association's West Coast Honors event in the spring, where she ran into **Daria Ibn-Tamas.** Whitney sees **Evan Malter** in the area when his very busy sporting events schedule permits. Whitney looks forward to making more Columbia connections in the Los Angeles area.

Much to my delight, Whitney has also been spending more time in NYC, where I recently took her on a walking adventure through various Brooklyn neighborhoods to introduce her to this magnificent borough.

As a final, but important, note, it seems remiss if I do not at the very least mention that it has been really upsetting to me personally (and I have spoken with many of you whom I know feel similarly) to see our Columbia community so fractured and divided over this past year. Without getting into the substance of the geopolitical issues surrounding the events that unfolded on campus this past year, I do have a few thoughts that I feel I must share.

When we were students together in 1992–96, we were equal beneficiaries of a world-class, top-notch, liberal arts education, anchored by the inimitable Core Curriculum. I thrived in the Core, soaking up every piece of literature I read, every philosophical maxim I had to contemplate, every piece of music and art I had to analyze. But most of all, I cherished the lively debates with classmates, the discussions, the different perspectives and the individual curiosity classmates exhibited. I walked out of so many classes inspired, fulfilled, challenged, reflective. This is how Columbia taught us to be, to grow. We all have different political views and come from different cultural, racial, and ethnic backgrounds, which inevitably inform our perspective on everything that is going on in the world, what we think is right and wrong, just and unjust, and that is the beauty of our diverse community.

But please, let's try not to lose the essence of what we learned at Columbia, which was to listen, to try to understand, to accept that our individual points of view might be flawed to some degree, that there is not one absolutely correct way to think and that there is value in being challenged to think about things from a different perspective. That was the beauty of our education, and it would be a shame to lose sight of that.

"Let your love be stronger than your hate or anger. Learn the wisdom of compromise, for it is better to bend a little than to break."

— H.G. Wells

1997

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John Dean Alfone has left the Lone Star State and relocated to Santa Fe, N.M., where he is an English language arts teacher and would love to hear from any alums visiting or living in the Land of Enchantment. Although he offers his prayers and meditations to those who lost loved ones during the Covid-19 pandemic, the lockdown was an economic blessing to John, as he worked in the Covid compliance officer department for film/television during the Covid era and has now worked on productions in nine contiguous states spanning from Kentucky to Colorado. He still has designs on completing a "1950s post-Korean War road movie period drama" and is open to anyone to any collaborators who would like to know more (online at bit.ly/4bZ6dUO).

Rebekah Gee PH'98 writes: "Carman 12 roommates are still connected: **Athena Ole** and I remain besties and saw each other at Jazz Fest this year. I recently visited **Sabra Gandhi**'s beautiful home in Santa Monica. My startup, Nest Health, is doing great — we have raised more than $20 million for our company, which does primary care house calls and virtual wraparound services for lower-income families with children. I am proud to be the founder and CEO of the first value-based care startup to care for families as a unit. I love living in New Orleans, where our girls were in the Mardi Gras court this year. Sending love! Let me know if you are in town."

Sari Beth Rosenberg writes: "I recently completed my 22nd year teaching U.S. history and AP U.S. history at the High School for Environmental Studies, an NYC public school. I have continued writing for various publications, and I also host the *PBS NewsHour* Classroom's Educator Voices series (online at bit.ly/4cLOx0a). Two and a half years ago, I co-founded Teachers Unify to End Gun Violence with Sarah Lerner (a teacher survivor from Parkland) and Abbey Clements (a teacher survivor from Sandy Hook). Our organization is a grassroots movement of educators across America whose mission is to empower its constituents and supporters to demand that communities are safe from gun violence. We recently participated in a press conference with Rep. Dan Goldman (D-N.Y.), Rep. Maxwell Frost (D-Fla.) and New York City Mayor Eric Adams to announce New York City Public Schools' commitment to share new federal resources made available regarding the safe storage of firearms with students, teachers and families. This came out of a collaboration between Teachers Unify and Goldman. New York City's is the first school system to agree to sending home these new federal resources. Here is more info on our press conference: bit.ly/4cLONfE, and me: bit.ly/3YggqJy.

Tjoyia Spetsieris Aliprandis writes: "I am a pediatrician practicing in Manhasset and my husband, Elias, is an ophthalmologist and cornea specialist in Brooklyn. We live in New Hyde Park and have two children, Alexandra (12) and Peter '28 (17). Both our kids had a stellar year in their multiple activities, especially as members of The Children's Orchestra Society, where Alexandra plays clarinet and Peter the violin. Alexandra has fast-tracked it into the senior orchestra in just three years and shows amazing talent and promise on the clarinet, as well as other creative pursuits including drawing and writing. Peter won the annual Discovery competition this year and played a solo at Lincoln Center with the orchestra, as well as leading it as concertmaster; you might have seen his face on the billboards in front of Alice Tully Hall. He graduated with honors from Herricks H.S. and received the New York State Seal of Biliteracy (he is fluent in Greek, Spanish and French). We are proud to announce that he joined the Class of 2028 in September, likely majoring in political science and pre-law. I guess I will be back on the Columbia campus for the first time in almost 30 years!"

Carter Turrell Celente writes: "This past May, I graduated with a master's in dance/movement therapy from Sarah Lawrence. Going back to school after so many years was both terrifying and thrilling, and I am so excited to jump into the field of dance/movement therapy."

As for me, **Kerensa Harrell,** as I sit here wrapping up this column, it is late June and my 7-year-old daughter and I are looking forward to our annual mother-daughter summer cruise to the Caribbean from Port Canaveral, which is only an hour's drive from our home in Celebration, Fla. This time we'll be on a brand-new ship, *Utopia,* which is still being built in France and will soon be brought to Florida for its maiden voyage. Recently I enjoyed attending my daughter's annual dance recital. She performed in a couple of dance pieces ("Arabian Nights" and "9 to 5") for the Broadway show-style dance classes that she has been taking. She has been going to weekly dance classes since she was 3 months old, so at this point she is a seasoned performer and never gets nervous on stage. I thought she looked particularly beautiful in "Arabian Nights," as she can easily pass for the Jasmine character, and the jeweled costume really suited her. While watching her onstage I had a flashback to the late 1990s (after I had graduated from Columbia and still lived in NYC), when I used to perform Egyptian cabaret-style dances (sword balancing dance, pharaonic candle dance, cane dance, veil dance, golden wings, finger cymbals, etc.) in an ongoing stage production, *1,001 Arabian Nights,* to live Middle Eastern music at the Ibis Dinner Theater, which was on West 44th Street between 8th and 9th avenues. It was a magical supper club, with a stage flanked by giant

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golden Egyptian sarcophagi, and it was owned by the Koura sisters from Egypt, one of whom was married to Mr. D'Aiuto of the famed D'Aiuto bakery, which I sadly heard closed in 2013 after 89 years as a neighborhood bakery, but I digress ...

So as I sign off I will cue the dazzling tune "Arabian Nights" tune (from the 1992 animated film *Aladdin*) that was just played at my daughter's dance recital — I love how the song is a mix of Broadway, Latin and vintage jazz styles infused with Middle Eastern music strains.

I do hope that you are faring well, and please write to us with updates. We would love to hear from you, even if it is just to say hello!

In lumine Tuo videbimus lumen.

1998

Sandie Angulo Chen
sandie.chen@gmail.com

Hello, Class of 1998. I haven't received any updates recently and would love for us to celebrate one another's achievements, milestones, moves and more. Reach out with news. Hope you're all well!

1999

Lauren Gershell
lauren@gershell.com

Hello Class of '99! I hope everyone is well and settling back into your fall routines. Two notes for this issue from classmates; please keep emailing me your updates — they are such a pleasure to read and to share!

Philip Winn wrote, "After 25 years in New York City (with a brief hiatus in New Haven to attend the Yale School of Architecture) I relocated to the Bay Area in 2020 to join the executive team of the San Francisco Parks Alliance, a citywide nonprofit focused on transforming and activating public spaces throughout San Francisco. I left the Parks Alliance in January 2024 and have joined Town Square Consulting, where I'll continue to focus on public space projects that help to strengthen community connections. I live just north of San Francisco in San Rafael with my daughter, Inés (6). We spend our free time exploring the Bay Area by cargo bike, folding mountains of origami and playing piano and drums in our garage. Music continues to be an important creative practice for me, and I'm working on songs for an album to finally follow up my last record (as a member of Hotbird 7) from 2004. I've had the good fortune to see friends Jasmine Hyman '00, Brendan Colthurst '00, Bill Russell '00 and Ken Thomson '98 when they've visited the Bay, and I see Kyong Pak '00 regularly, as her husband, Andrew Spraggs, and I are childhood friends. I also ran into fellow COÖP leader **David Goldman** at the bike shop here, and we've had the chance to hang a few times, too."

Jacob Kupietzky SIPA'00 recently published a unique Passover Seder book, *The Promise of Liberty: A Passover Haggada* (online at bit.ly/46idxtv).

Congratulations on this achievement, Jacob!

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2000

REUNION 2025
MAY 29–31

Kavita Shah Bafana
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Greetings, fellow Columbians! As we traverse different paths and timelines, our class remains a vibrant tapestry of achievements, adventures and aspirations. Let's dive into the latest updates from classmates to see where life has taken them since our last rendezvous.

In a world that often feels vast and dispersed, the bonds of Columbia alumni bring us closer, no matter the distance. A testament to these enduring connections, **Jenny Fan Raj** and Kevin Glenz '98 recently had a delightful meetup at the Aman Hotel Tokyo.

Kim Salzman (née Worly) has not only ventured into the literary world but also made a significant impact with her debut novel, *Straddling Black and White*. This historical fiction piece explores the harrowing yet hopeful journey of an Ethiopian Jewish family striving to immigrate to Israel. Kim's passion for storytelling is matched by her commitment to social issues, as evidenced by her recent certification as a licensed tour guide in Israel — a dream come true for her.

Tchaiko Omawale, whose life journey spanned eight countries by the age of 16, continues to harness her global experiences in her filmmaking. Tchaiko's work predominantly explores themes of fantasy connected to African indigeneity and the restorative powers of body and spirit. Her debut feature film, *Solace*, streams on Paramount+ and kweliTV and offers a poignant look into a Black girl's struggle with an eating disorder. The film was initially workshopped in a South African township, engaging the community in meaningful dialogue about self-harm and disordered eating through a lens of compassion.

Tchaiko Omawale '00, whose life journey spanned eight countries by the age of 16, continues to harness her global experiences in her filmmaking.

In addition to her filmmaking, Tchaiko has engaged with audiences on profound topics alongside notable figures such as Roxane Gay, discussing food, trauma and the Black body. Her recent projects include the short fantasy film *SITA,* exhibited at the Project Row House show "Black Women Artists for Black Lives Matter," co-curated by Simone Leigh. Her documentary work has not gone unnoticed, either; early this year she was honored with a Ford Foundation research and development grant and received the Creative Capital Award. Tchaiko's influence also extends to television, directing episodes for series like *Queen Sugar; Sacrifice;* and *Good Trouble.* Her portfolio reflects her dynamic and impactful career in the arts (tchaiko.com).

As we celebrate the diverse achievements of classmates, we are reminded of the profound impact a Columbia education and community can have on the world. Until next time, keep striving, keep shining and most importantly, keep in touch!

2001

Jonathan Gordin
jrg53@columbia.edu

Hi, everyone. It has been quite a bit of time since I'd heard from many of you. Thanks for writing and sharing details from your lives.

Elisa Tustian (née Melendez) writes, "An article I wrote, 'Five Hundred Years, Give or Take' was published in the National Coalition of Concerned Legal Professionals' Verdict Magazine in July."

Ben Ryan writes: "The last time I sent an update, I said I'd just beaten cancer, only to be in the middle of chemo for a recurrence when the note was published. I subsequently beat the recurrence and have been free of cancer for two years; my prognosis is excellent. Otherwise, I'm busy reporting about health and science for *The New York Times,* NBC News, *The Atlantic, The Washington Post, The New York Sun* and others. Drop me a line: benryan.net; X: @benryanwriter."

Ellen Volpe, co-owner of ET Family Travel, has grown the agency to more than 450 agents around the country and recently celebrated seven years in business. It stated with Disney products, but has grown its supplier list extensively and can book all destinations around the world. **Meghan Orban** is a manager who co-runs the groups division and is a director of social media engagement. ET Family Travel was recently awarded Top Ten Worldwide for Sandals and Beaches and is one of the leading Disney agencies in the country.

Lindsay Rachelefsky lives in Los Angeles with her husband and two daughters. She started a firm advising high-net-worth families and their companies on their philanthropic and political giving. Lindsay is a member of the board of the John Thomas

Dye School and the Marlborough School in Los Angeles. She recently met up with her college friends and their families and spent a day visiting Columbia and showing the kids all of their favorite spots!

Courtney Reum shared: "I became the oldest person to make their professional football debut at this high a level: bit.ly/46nJp00 (this was on the cover of *The Wall Street Journal* in May)."

Anna Rozentul (née Smirnov) is doing well; she is a doctor with CityMD. "I have two kids, one of whom started college at SUNY Buffalo. I celebrated my 20th wedding anniversary in July!"

Jeff Senter shared: "I have been following the activities of Columbia students this past year from my home on the UWS. I am deeply saddened to see Columbia University repeat the mistakes of 1968."

Sheila Nazarian "has been busy in my plastic surgery practice. I recently joined Nick Cannon on his *Counsel Culture* show on Amazon Prime. I have also been active on Fox News and social media fighting antisemitism and anti-Israel bias."

Ari Shrage BUS'03 wrote: "I live in White Plains, N.Y., with my wife and four kids. I co-founded the Columbia Jewish Alumni Association in the aftermath of the Hamas attacks of innocent Israeli civilians. The CJAA believes that Columbia University can, and must, provide a safe and welcoming environment for the University's Jewish students, staff and faculty. When the University fails to adhere to its cherished values, it is our responsibility to hold it accountable. We have hosted alumni social and educational events and have more planned for the fall. Our membership is diverse, encompassing alumni of all races, religions and Columbia schools from all over the world. If you are interested in getting involved, please visit columbiajewishalumni.org."

I hope everyone stays well and in touch. Would love to hear from all of you.

2002

Sonia Hirdaramani
soniahird@gmail.com

Thanks for sharing your news and notes, CC'02!

Last fall, **Ashanti Blaize-Hopkins** became the first Black woman to be elected president of the Society of Professional Journalists national board of directors. SPJ is the oldest and most broad-based journalism organization in the country. This past January, Ashanti was also named interim associate dean of Santa Monica College's Center for Media & Design. In that role she oversees a campus of more than 20 career education programs and manages the relationship with local NPR station KCRW, which is co-located at CMD.

Lillian Davies curated the exhibition "Playgrounds" at Cometa, Paris, on the occasion of the publication of her most recent book, *Playgrounds*, with artist Chloe Briggs.

Please send updates to soniahird@gmail.com. Would be so happy to hear from you!

2003

Michael J. Novielli
mjn29@columbia.edu

No news this time.

2004

Jaydip Mahida
jmahida@gmail.com

Pooja Mehta writes, "I am eager to connect with alums in the Boston area interested in creative writing and publishing. I was recently promoted to VP of population health at Cityblock Health and am on the faculty of ob/gyn at Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine, along with **Nyia Noel**!"

Great minds think alike, as **Nyia Noel** also wrote in to share that she is an assistant professor of ob/gyn at Boston University and specializes in minimally invasive gynecologic surgery and uterine fibroids at Boston Medical Center. This year she was promoted to the position of gynecology inpatient medical director. In her spare time she enjoys hanging out at the Institute of Contemporary Art, running, fitness and spending time with her fourth-grader.

Pooja and Nyia also recently enjoyed a visit from my old roomie **Selom Gasinu SEAS'04**.

Keeping with the New England theme this issue, **Devaughn Fowlkes** enrolled in the MIT Sloan executive M.B.A. program, Class of 2026, where he'll continue his focus within innovation and entrepreneurship.

RACHEL ENGLENDER MEYERSTEIN

At the launch for Elana Stein Hain '04's book, *Circumventing the Law: Rabbinic Perspectives on Loopholes and Legal Integrity,* held on June 5 at Congregation Ohev Sholom in Washington, D.C., were, left to right: Shaanan Meyerstein '05, Jessica Levi BC'06, Stein Hain, Leora Falk BC'07 and Jennifer Raskas '06 (née Rubin).

And **Ann Schissel** checks in from Minnesota: "It's now been 20 years since we graduated! I am fortunate to say that, since that time, I earned a Ph.D. in clinical science and psychopathology research from the University of Minnesota. I have a pretty extensive history of direct client care and, about four years ago, took a position as core faculty in a doctoral psychology program in Minnesota. I have since also become the director of clinical training in this program. My focus is on clinical training and educating emerging psychologists, particularly in areas of assessment and diagnoses. I also retain a small clinical practice where I focus on addiction, anxiety and mood disorders, and trauma.

Sophia Beal is also in Minnesota and was promoted to full professor this year at the University of Minnesota, where she teaches Portuguese. Her kids are 10 and 12, and they had a great visit with **Anna Bulbrook** in Los Angeles in May. Sophia would love to connect if folks are visiting Minneapolis.

Finally, **Ilana Golant** is now running the Food Allergy Fund, a nonprofit dedicated to funding food allergy research and accelerating innovation. Food allergies affect 1 in 10 adults and 1 in 13 kids. She would love to connect with anyone interested in learning more.

That's all for this issue! Please continue to send updates, as we want to hear from as many folks as possible. Career and family updates are always great, but please share fun anecdotes, memories or any updates!

2005

REUNION 2025
MAY 29–31

Sallie Touma
sallie@sallietutor.com

Hi, Class of 2005! I was back on campus for reunion in late May/early June — I can't believe our 20th is next year! I'm organizing our first Tri-State area supper club, where we take turns hosting the group in our homes. Please feel free to text if you'd be interested: 646-640-6348. On to our Class Notes ...

Dan Binder is dean of students for the Upper School at Episcopal Collegiate School in Little Rock, where he also teaches history; he'd be happy to connect with any Lions in the central Arkansas area.

Clara Lee writes, "This is my first update, and I can't believe that already our 20th-year reunion is around the corner. It seems like yesterday that we were freshmen.

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My parents are downsizing, and gave me a bunch of my old stuff. Among the random collection of old CDs, picture albums and clothes that have now come back in style, I came across our physical Facebook. My kids, Gabriel (8) and Ariella (5), were shocked that Facebook was a physical book!

"We reside in Bergen County, N.J., with my husband, James Wang. While on call every day as a full-time mom, I work part time at Baker Health as a pediatrician. If you are in the area, I would love to have the privilege of taking care of your children ... and then give them back to you."

David Lehman writes, "Photo Start: Empowering Youth Through Photography was founded by David Lehman in 2016 with his sister Abigail. Photo Start is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to transforming the lives of underprivileged youth through the art of photography. From its beginnings with a single program in Kenya, Photo Start has expanded to operate across four continents and many countries including Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Cameroon, Malawi, South Africa, Iraq and Kurdistan, Bolivia and the United States.

"Photo Start, which holds special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, uses photography as a tool to teach critical skills, ranging from creative expression to technical proficiency and digital literacy. It empowers students with the tools and opportunities necessary for success, fostering a sustainable model where graduates often become trainers themselves. Through applied learning experiences like field trips and community projects, Photo Start ensures students can apply their skills in real-world contexts, preparing them for diverse professional paths beyond photography.

"Alumni can support Photo Start by donating old digital cameras, tablets and smartphones; hosting fundraisers; or donating time and expertise. Your involvement can significantly impact the lives of youth, providing them with opportunities to thrive and succeed."

Steve Vargas writes, "I joined Friedman Vartolo in April as the firm's senior appellate counsel, primarily handling civil appeals in the New York State appellate courts as well as other real estate litigation. Previously, I was the managing attorney of litigation and appeals at Gross Polowy."

2006

Andrew Stinger
andrew.stinger@gmail.com

A very happy autumn to CC'06 classmates. Thank you to the wonderful peers who took the time to share their latest updates. It's always a privilege to celebrate your successes and life events!

Tanya Khan opened her solo oculoplastic surgery practice office this past spring in the Dallas area.

Sean Wilkes has begun a job in Hawai'i as director of the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship program at Tripler AMC in Honolulu. In his words, Sean "still gets away to the mainland occasionally," and visited campus last fall to celebrate Veterans Day at the annual Columbia University Military Ball, along with **Brian Wagner** and **Bob Wray.** Go to this column online at college.columbia.edu/cct to see a photo.

Teddy Diefenbach's directorial debut series won a Peabody Award at the 84th Annual ceremony in Los Angeles. The project, *We Are OFK,* is an interactive television series and video game structured as a music biopic about young creatives in Los Angeles. It is also Teddy's debut as director, co-star and vocalist. The game was released for PCs, Nintendo and PlayStation, and has extended into a live stage production of virtual pop music and motion-capture technology, which will be performed at SXSW Sydney this year.

2007

David Donner Chait
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I hope everyone is doing well, and thank you to everyone who shared updates with our class.

Tom Lightcap and his wife, Amanda, are expanding their family-owned business, Degree Wellness. With four company studios and another six in development, the brand recently kicked off its national expansion by awarding its first franchise licenses. Be on the lookout for the next Degree Wellness studio to bring modern self-care to your city!

Margaret Bryer shares, "I am an assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology at University of Wisconsin-Madison and enjoy living in Madison and conducting primatology field work in Uganda and South Africa."

Alisa Parker (née Gross) and her husband, Hal, "welcomed fraternal twin girls, Clea Anne and Eriantha Sylvia, on Dec. 24 in San Carlos, Calif. Prior to their birth, **Ambalika Sudan** (née Pinto) hosted a baby shower for me with some local friends. We have been enjoying lots of visitors, including **Susan Millenky,** Jessica Geesaman BC'08 (née McHugh) and **Risa Chubinsky.** The babies are fun, mellow and full of smiles!

Eric Bondarsky writes, "Although I had been taking in a fun season of Bergenfield Baseball with Joshua Tenzer '01, it was a special treat to enjoy front-row seats to Tenzer and Lunin Twins at Flexon Foxes with former East Campus 806 suitemate Isaac Greenbaum SEAS'06, SEAS'10 on a sunny Sunday in May. The Twins emerged victorious in a nail-biter 1–0 victory!"

2008

Bradley Blackburn
blb2104@columbia.edu

This fall marks 20 years since we first stepped on campus, CC'08! Hope you're enjoying the change of seasons, and thanks to classmates who shared updates.

Atossa Abrahamian writes from New York: "I reconnected with **Calvin Sun** after hobbling into an urgent care clinic in the city with a nasty gash on my shin (occupational hazard — I have two small boys.) We caught up on 20 years of gossip and travels while he stitched me up.

"In other news, my second book, *The Hidden Globe: How Wealth Hacks the World,* will be published on Oct. 8. It's a tour of the world's weird jurisdictions."

Calvin and Atossa met in Carman freshman year, and they have another thing in common as published authors. Calvin shares that his first

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SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE
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• If CCT handles your class, email cct@columbia.edu (please indicate your class year).
• All classes may submit using the online webform college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.
SUBMIT A PHOTO
• Photos must feature at least two College alumni for Class Notes, and one for Just Married, as long as the alum is a member of the couple.
• All photos must be submitted using the online webform college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.
• Photos that do not meet the size parameters for print will run online.

Just Married!

CCT welcomes wedding photos where at least one member of the couple is a College alum. Please submit your high-resolution photo, and caption information, on our photo webform: **college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo**. Congratulations!

THEERAPON PRUESKA PHOTOGRAPHY

CINELOVE

1. Celebrating with Tony Forlini and Emily Dreibelbis '14 (second and third from left) at their July 6 wedding in Princeton were, left to right: Kofi Opoku SEAS'14, Luke Mones '14, Adrian Silver '15, Eva Sasson BC'14 (with Lielle Sasson), Allee Karmazyn BC'14 and Grace Kim '15.

2. Rupal Gupta '21 (left) and Tanmay Khandelwal SEAS'22 were married on July 15 at Rambagh Palace in Jaipur, India.

book, *The Monsoon Diaries: A Doctor's Journey of Hope and Healing from the ER Frontlines to the Far Reaches of the World,* was published in 2022.

Rachel Belt is a technical officer at the World Health Organization focused on vaccination, and she's in her third year as a term member at the Council on Foreign Relations. She is completing a D.Phil. in digital health at the University of Oxford.

Sabrina Martinez writes from Storm Lake, Iowa: "Greetings from Flyover Country! After graduation, I relocated to the Midwest. For the last four years I have been a rural physician practicing family medicine and obstetrics in Iowa. This year I am chief of medical staff. In addition to our 8-year-old son, we welcomed our daughter this May."

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And **Dean Spirito** continues his professional coaching journey as he trains three-time Winter Olympics medalist Nicholas Goepper, of Lawrenceburg, Ind. Goepper is preparing for his fourth Olympic appearance in 2026, where he could make history as he transitions from the slopestyle discipline to halfpipe; winning gold would secure his place as the most-decorated freeskier in U.S. history. Dean has worked with hundreds of freeskiers throughout his career, including two other Olympians, Ben Harrington of New Zealand and Thibault Magnin of Spain. He says is optimistic that Goepper has the talent and grit to make history in Milan.

2009

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

CCT thanks **Shira Burton** for her two and a half years of service as class correspondent. If you are interested in taking on this role, please send a note to cct@columbia.edu with the subject line "CC'09 class correspondent." In the meantime, please send your news and/or College memories to *CCT* through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2010

REUNION 2025
MAY 29–31

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

We received one note this time, from **Jacquelyn Ravichandran** (née La Torre) TC'12: "I had a baby girl — Katerina Aishwarya Ravichandran — on July 13. She was 7 pounds, 2 ounces and 20.5 inches long. My husband, Arvind Ravichandran '09, LAW'12, and I are overjoyed. We can't wait to bring her to campus someday, so she can see where her mother and father met!"

CCT is still in need of a class correspondent to helm this column. If you are interested, please send a note to cct@columbia.edu with the subject line "CC'10 class correspondent." In the meantime, please send your news and/or College memories to *CCT* through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2011

Nuriel Moghavem and Sean Udell
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sean.udell@gmail.com

Hey, 2011. Some personal updates first: **Sean Udell** and **Nuriel Moghavem** both finished their first years as attending physicians! Sean is enjoying his general outpatient psychiatry clinic in Park City, Utah. He and his husband love the outdoor lifestyle that Utah offers, and Sean is especially proud that he skied 48 days last ski season. In addition to his clinical responsibilities at Park City Hospital, Sean also

joined the faculty at the University of Utah School of Medicine, where he is an adjunct professor of medical education. Nuriel is a neurologist at Los Angeles General Medical Center, where he runs the multiple sclerosis clinic and the Los Angeles County Jail neurology clinic. He would need a few psychiatry visits before getting back into skiing.

Shiri Melumad BUS'17 was recently granted tenure and will be an associate professor of marketing at The Wharton School, where she started as an assistant professor in 2017.

Really incredible!

Shira Schindel recently began as acquisitions director for publishing startup Bindery Books after a year of consulting under her independent company, Kinder Kids Media. She and her husband, Dr. Ron Gejman '10, welcomed their second child, Alexander Yehudah Marcos Gejman. They live with their children in Washington Heights, with a stellar view of the George Washington Bridge.

Actor and opera singer **Kurt Kanazawa** premiered his solo show, *L'OPERA!,* co-directed by fellow N.O.M.A.D.S. alum Kalina Ko BC'21 and Jeff Liu and presented by Pan Asian Repertory's NuWorks Festival 2024 in New York in June, which is about a fun-loving, Japanese and Filipino-American opera singer who gets into The Juilliard School, then loses his voice. Next, Kurt will star in Matt Black SOA'15's horror short *Darkroom* opposite Sophia Xu (*Beef*). And this past summer he played the lead, Felix, in *Happy Fall: A Queer Stunt Spectacular,* a new play by Lisa Sanaye-Dring and Rogue Artists Ensemble that ran at the Los Angeles LGBT Center Aug. 17–Sept. 8. He urges you to text him for discount codes, always.

2012

Pat Blute
pblute@gmail.com

Hello, Lions. Summer is in full swing as I write this, carrying with it a plethora of spring memories. Each connection that is fostered and strengthened showcases how our time together will forever ripple throughout history. Wishing everyone health, love, peace and joy — and a reminder that dreams are never too far out of reach.

The kickoff to summer was exciting. I've been pleased to be partnering with the Columbia Climate School Capstone, working with students on a decarbonization tool for the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. I also graduated from an executive M.B.A. program via Trinity College Dublin in Ireland and celebrated with **Donia Abdelaziz, Karla Casariego, Mrinal Mohanka, Anna Cooperberg** and **Rohan Jotwani.** Everyone is doing great and, it was so exciting to have a reunion. (See "Just Married!" online at college.columbia.edu/cct for a group shot from Rohan's wedding!)

Wonderful to hear that **Leah Greenbaum** recently accepted a role with the City and County of San Francisco. She and her partner, Justin, welcomed their first child, Steiner Moses Goss, in May. All involved are happy, healthy and enjoying their new adventures.

Congratulations, Leah!

New Lion celebrations are also in order for **Kelicia Jessie** (née Hollis) and her husband, who had their first child, Darius Jessie Jr., on June 1.

Congratulations and best wishes for all that is ahead!

Carolyn Holst-Grubbe and **Peter Holst-Grubbe** are thrilled to announce the birth of their second daughter, Isabelle, on April 8, born during the North American Solar Eclipse. Isabelle joins sister Liliana (2.5).

Congratulations on your growing family!

Cristina "Cha" Ramos SOA'21 and Will Owens celebrated their wedding during Memorial Day weekend after also successfully winning a Drama Desk award for Outstanding Fight Choreography for *Water for Elephants*! (See "Just Married!" online at college.columbia.edu/cct for a photo!)

Congrats, and shoutout, also!

The wedding was held upstate at Basilica Hudson with awesome friends Donnie Alonzo SEAS'12, Nikki Levick SEAS'12 (née Lugo), Nathan Levick SEAS'12, **Caitlin Anderson, Gabriel Kerr** and Gilbert Nunez '13.

Also from the *Water for Elephants* family, congrats to **Stephen Davan** on winning the Varsity Show I.A.L. Diamond Award for Achievement in the Arts.

What an incredible achievement.

WILL SCHILDKNECHT

Taking a moment on June 15 — Day 3 of celebrating Virat Gupta '12 and Sarah Mehrotra's Indian wedding at Whitehall in Annapolis, Md., with dancing, reuniting, and singing Rihanna and Lady Gaga 'til late! — were, left to right, Aki Terasaki '12, Sarah Chai Schildknecht '12, Kenny Durell '12 and Ilana Guma.

2013

Tala Akhavan
talaakhavan@gmail.com

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer! With more than 10 years under our belts since graduation, our class continues to achieve professionally and grow personally. See the following updates from classmates!

Alexander Simmonds and **Mallory Simmonds** (née Anderson) welcomed their first child, a daughter named Eleanor, on May 27. Alexander and Mallory live in London, having moved across the pond from NYC in 2018. Mallory is president EMEA for the Kepler Group, a digital marketing agency, while Alexander was an M&A lawyer at Davis Polk until March, when he left private practice to join Cadeler A/S as chief legal officer. Cadeler owns and operates specialized installation vessels for the construction of offshore wind farms.

Congratulations, Alexander and Mallory!

James Bennett shared: "Damn, what happened again? Did the This American Life fellowship, which is what you could call an American Experience. Speaking of — I'm at (W)GBH (Boston's local NPR; sorry, WBUR) now, co-hosting *The Culture Show.* I got pretty decent at making tomato sauce. What else ... I was nominated for a James Beard Award, which is an update that shoulda been included like, three issues ago, but I forgot, and continue to be insufferable about that nom. Maybe I'll get a car someday. Aight, that's enough for now, thanks bye."

Michelle Page is thrilled to announce that her debut novel, *Brewed with Love*, will release on Jan. 14. In her words, "*Brewed* is a cozy, contemporary romantasy about a teen witch who wants to keep her family's apothecary from falling to the competition but can only do so with assistance from her first crush."

Silvia Park's novel, *Luminous,* is being published in March.

Congratulations, Michelle and Silvia!

Andrea Garcia Vargas has exciting personal news to share, as well: "I am in a domestic partnership with Connor Foster (Cornell '15), and we are happily cohabitating and building a life together."

2014

Rebecca Schechter Fattell
rsf2121@columbia.edu

No news this time.

2015

REUNION 2025
MAY 29–31

Kareem Carryl
kareem.carryl@columbia.edu

No news this time.

2016

Lily Liu-Krason
lliukrason@gmail.com

No news this time.

2017

Carl Yin
carl.yin@columbia.edu

No news this time.

2018

Alexander Birkel
and Maleeha Chida
ab4065@columbia.edu
mnc2122@columbia.edu

Briley Lewis and **Julia Zeh** recently met up in Syracuse, where Julia recently defended her Ph.D. (go to this column at college.columbia.edu/cct see a photo). Julia will soon start a job at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Woods Hole, Mass. Briley was to defend her Ph.D. thesis this August at UCLA. After graduation, she'll be a National Science Foundation Astronomy and Astrophysics Postdoctoral Research Fellow at UC Santa Barbara while living in sunny Los Angeles with her rescue dog, Rocky.

Karen Lopez and **Erin Vaughn** celebrate joining the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School of Business Class of 2025 (see the nearby photo!).

2019

Tj Aspen Givens and
Emily Gruber
tag2149@columbia.edu
emilyannegruber@gmail.com

Class of 2019, it was great to see many of you at our five-year reunion! We are happy to share these updates from our class. Please stay in touch!

Matthew Petti spent two years in Jordan, first on a Center for Arabic Study Abroad fellowship and then on a Fulbright. Now he's an assistant editor at *Reason Magazine.*

Margaret Zhu was excited to return to Columbia this fall to study for an M.B.A.

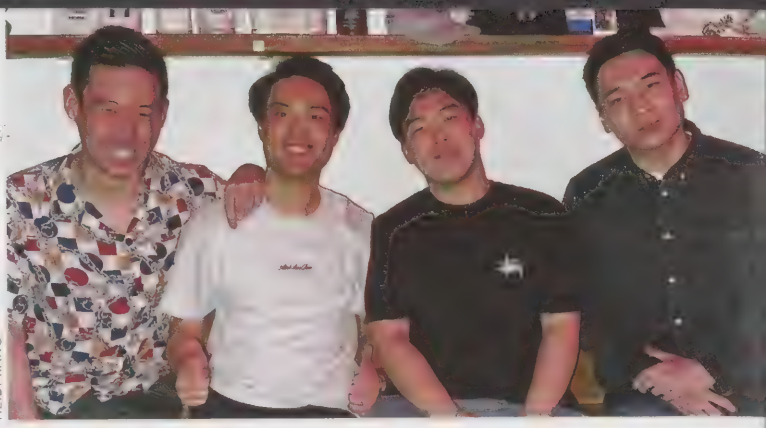
2020

REUNION 2025
MAY 29–31

Stephen Cone and
Kyra Ann Dawkins
jsc2247@columbia.edu
kad2196@columbia.edu

Paulina Fein has taken up curling. She's having a blast with this lifetime, strategic sport that dates back to 16th-century Scotland! There's a great community, and the attire is funky. She wholeheartedly recommends it to everyone!

Karen Lopez '18 (left) and Erin Vaughn '18 celebrated joining Penn's Wharton School Class of 2025 on April 16 in Philadelphia.



HEIDI KANG

Enjoying a game night at a Brooklyn, N.Y., bar on May 23 were, left to right: Joshua Suh '18, Steven Lee '19, Jungsoo Lee '21 and Matthew Kim.

Dallas Koelling graduated with an M.F.A. in creative writing at City, University of London. She has been accepted to The London Library Emerging Writers Programme, a yearlong fellowship that will give her full access to London Library resources and the vibrant literary community the library fosters. Dallas is hard at work on her debut novel.

Paola Ripoll recently returned from a third visit with the World Aral Region Charity to Uzbekistan, where she managed an environmental advocacy program at a school within an area of ecological devastation. In addition to monitoring the water filter installed two years ago, WARC also oversaw the installation of a greenhouse at its partner school. Paola is back in Morningside Heights, studying toward a J.D. at the Law School.

Thank you to those who submitted notes, and we look forward to hearing from more of you.

2021

Mario A. Garcia Jr.
mag2329@columbia.edu

No news this time.

2022

Mark Anthony Torres
mat2223@columbia.edu

Hey CC'22! Can you believe it's been two years since we graduated?! I've certainly missed grabbing a bite at Absolute Bagels, running by the Hudson via Riverside Park and hanging out on Low Beach. I hope everyone has adjusted to post-college life, and I look forward to hearing about your accomplishments and milestones!

I have recently been honing my physical fitness. In May, I competed in a powerlifting competition where I placed third out of five competitors in my weight group. Two weeks later, I completed the Rock 'n' Roll San Diego Marathon. Now, I am taking a break and enjoying the beaches San Diego has to offer, with friends old and new!

Christian Flores recently joined the White House Council of Economic Advisers. As a special adviser to the chief economist of the Investing in America Cabinet, he is responsible for implementing the Biden administration's investments. Previously, Christian worked in the Monetary Policy Research Division at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Congrats, Christian!

As a reminder, I am looking to spotlight you in our next edition of Class Notes. Please do not hesitate to contact me — no accomplishment or life event is too big or too small to share. *Hasta luego,* CC'22!

2023

Ashley Yu
ashley.yu@columbia.edu

Hello, Class of 2023! I hope everyone is finding their way in this new chapter of life, be it through starting a career, continuing education or other exciting ventures! Let's aim to keep our class connected as we embark on our journeys as young alumni. A great way to stay in touch is by sharing Class Notes with updates on your latest adventures. Please reach out to me with your news via email or through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

Camila Rodriguez reflects on all that has happened since graduation. She writes, "After taking a year off to pursue some personal goals (learning to bartend, getting LEED certified,

taking GIS classes online), I'll be attending Duke University for a master's in environmental management. Taking a year off after college helped me organize a lot of my personal goals, as did taking a year off before starting college. I was excited to move to Durham this summer and for all the new opportunities coming!"

Since graduation, **Rendabel Radian** has been working on launching a real estate tech startup, LivSync, and is asking everyone to stay tuned for updates!

Lorenzo Garcia shares, "I am a full-time Catholic missionary with the Fellowship of Catholic University Students at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, Mass.! It has been a blessing from the Lord to be able to do this work and receive such generous support for my mission at this university! I am excited for what God has in store for me, my supporters and my fellow students in the years to come!"

Alyssa Cassandra Sales shares, "I am happy that since graduating I've been able to stay connected with many friends at Columbia, whether calling classmates in Stockholm or Los Angeles or Hong Kong, I've found that time zones and locations cannot end our connections. My friends and I also started sending each other life updates through 'letterhoop,' where we respond to or ask each other questions, and the application compiles our answers and sends them to us in a newsletter. I have truly realized that friendships at Columbia last a lifetime!"

2024

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Hello, CC'24! This column is your place to share news with classmates. *CCT* needs one or two class members to oversee this column as class correspondents. If you're interested, please email cct@columbia.edu with the subject line "CC'24 class correspondent."

In the meantime, send your latest news to us through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note, and we'll share it in a future issue. Photos should be sent using the Class Notes photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

Have a great fall, and welcome to the alumni community!

obituaries

Columbia College Today has learned of the deaths of the following alumni. To submit an obituary for a Columbia College graduate, please use the online webform college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_obituary.

1945 **Malvin A. "Mal" Ruderman,** physics professor and researcher, New York City, on July 20, 2024. **

1952 **G. Howard Hansen,** insurance adviser, Port Saint Lucie, Fla., on April 14, 2024.

1953 **Nicholas Wolfson,** law professor, Annapolis, Md., on Aug. 14, 2024.

1954 **A. Stephen Passloff,** physician, New York City, on April 17, 2024. *

1956 **Herbert M. Kutlow,** financial services executive, Carlsbad, Calif., on July 23, 2024. *

1958 **Paul R. Herman,** attorney, Englewood, N.J., on June 5, 2024. *

Stanley H. Schachne, telecom analyst, Purcellville, Va., on March 23, 2024. *

1959 **Edward C. "Ned" Elson,** physician, Bethesda, Md., on May 19, 2024. *

Francis J. Fortier III, violinist, conductor and artistic director, New York City, on March 23, 2024. *

Neil N. Gold, historian and urban affairs consultant, Teaneck, N.J., on May 28, 2024.

1962 **Philip Lille,** businessman, Paradise Valley, Ariz., on May 1, 2024. *

1963 **Geoffrey R. Akst,** mathematics professor, New York City, on March 5, 2024. *

Henry R. Black, physician, New York City, on May 21, 2024. *

1966 **William W. Corcoran,** attorney and consultant, Winchester, Mass., on May 23, 2024. *

1968 **Thomas S. Seligson,** author and TV producer, Deep River, Mass., on April 5, 2024. *

David J. Shapiro, poet, art historian and professor, Bronx, N.Y., on May 4, 2024. **

1969 **Ira S. Cohen,** physician and professor, Stony Brook, N.Y., on June 15, 2024. *

Thomas S. Huseby, entrepreneur, Decatur Island, Wash., on June 16, 2024. *

Nathaniel Wander, consultant, researcher, writer, artist and painter, Portland, Ore., on March 27, 2024. *

1970 **Frank T. Furillo,** engineer and consultant, Medford, N.J., on March 30, 2024. *

1971 **Mark L. Silverman,** physician, New York City, on April 27, 2024. *

1972 **Joseph L. Falik,** attorney, Huntington Woods, Mich., on Sept. 17, 2023. *

1978 **John R. Flores,** attorney, Newington, Conn., on June 20, 2024. *

1982 **Ron Simons,** theatrical and film producer, New York City, on June 12, 2024. **

* Full obituary online at college.columbia.edu/cct. ** Featured obituary online at college.columbia.edu/cct.

readitonline

JORG MEYER

THE WIZARD OF WHEELS

It's basically a garage, a four-story, concrete parking lot with just enough spaces for the hundreds of vehicles housed there. Tucked into a nondescript, industrial section of Queens, it's next door to a police precinct and a couple of auto-body repair shops. And it's noisy, with detailers scraping off coats of paint and a car washer seemingly on nonstop auto-spray and a freight elevator clanking and clanking as massive SUVs get loaded and unloaded.

Shangri-La? Hardly. But for **Bob Schweitzer '90,** it's where magic happens.

Since 2017, Schweitzer has been president of Picture Car Services, a 40-year-old business that gives new life to virtually anything on wheels, making them camera ready for film, TV series and even red-carpet events. So, when prop masters from *The Equalizer* or *Law & Order: SVU* or any upcoming movie are casting for a scene-fitting vehicle, they often turn to Schweitzer for just the right one. He was ready, for instance, with enough Mercedes Maybachs (retail value: $200,000 each) to meet the Roys' ostentatious tastes in *Succession*. And when the producers of *Godfather of Harlem* were looking to recreate the streets of 1960s New York City, Schweitzer handed over the keys to a 1963 Oldsmobile 98 with its unmistakable sleek fins and die-cast grille.

As Schweitzer puts it, "Cars tell a story."

Get the story at **college.columbia.edu/cct**

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By telling us that you have included Columbia College in your will, trust, or other estate plans, you join a growing community of forward-thinking alumni and friends who are shaping Columbia's future—the 1754 Society.

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CCT

Columbia College Today

Winter/Spring 2025

200 YEARS OF THE CCAA

A HISTORIC LOOK BACK AT COLUMBIA'S FIRST ALUMNI ORGANIZATION

THE 2025 LION'S PRIDE HONOREES

TAKE NOTE OF THESE NINE INSPIRING YOUNG ALUMNI

ATTENDING TO ATHLETES

DR. DAVID TROFA '07 KEEPS LIONS IN WINNING CONDITION

MAKING A SCENE

HOW SCREENWRITER JUSTIN MARKS '02 TURNED *SHŌGUN* INTO A TELEVISION SENSATION

“Donations from alumni and parents are highly valuable and have an impact on the academic and social experience for both students and and wider community. These funds enable Columbia College to continue providing financial aid, internship stipends and funding for student groups to carry out their professional development and academic enrichment.”

— EVELYN YU CC'25

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features

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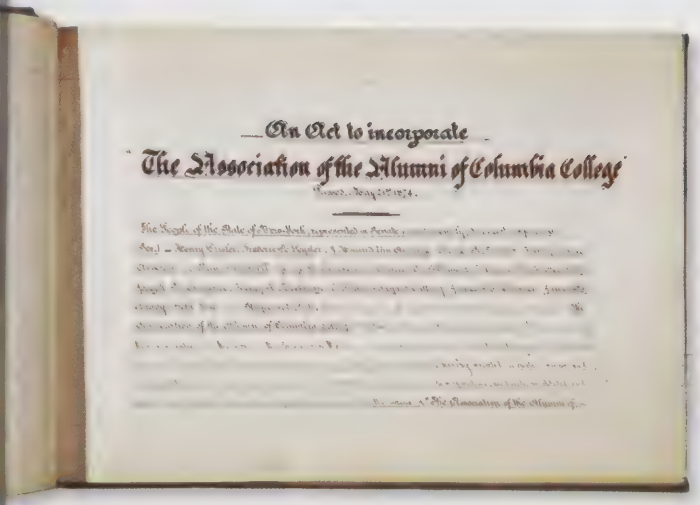
Making a Scene

How screenwriter Justin Marks '02 turned *Shōgun* into a television sensation.

By Scott Meslow


An Act to incorporate
The Association of the Alumni of Columbia College

20

A Salute to the CCAA

In honor of its 200th anniversary, we look back at the origins and influence of Columbia's first alumni organization.

By Alexis Boncy SOA'11

28

The 2025 Lion's Pride Honors

Meet this year's cohort of outstanding young alumni.

Cover: Photograph by Jörg Meyer

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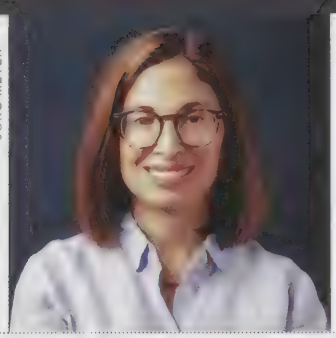

JORG MEYER

Within the Family

A Deep Dive Into the Archives

When we learned that 2025 was the bicentennial of the Columbia College Alumni Association (CCAA), it was only a short hop to deciding that we would write a feature marking the occasion. But where to begin? We scribbled our thoughts on a notepad and mapped out a potential outline.

Really, though, what we needed to do was research — deep research, requiring patience and primary sources; the kind where you roll up your sleeves and dive in, having ideas of what you hope to find, but also staying open to the possibility of the unexpected.

We needed the Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

The University's principal repository for special collections is a treasure. RBML's holdings include half a million works that span nearly 4,000 years — from cuneiform tablets to Renaissance manuscripts to printed books. We were heartened to discover CCAA records from 1825 to 1960, described in the catalog as 18.75 linear feet of material in 16 cartons. This seemed, admittedly, an overwhelming amount. But with guidance from University Archivist Jocelyn Wilk and Records Manager Joanna Rios, we narrowed those spoils to the most promising contents.

We made appointments to review documents. We took photos and copious notes. We followed facts to additional sources and, afterward, filled out our understanding with other perspectives.

Now, we proudly present "A Salute to the CCAA" (page 20) — a look at the origins and early chronology of the CCAA, as well as the back stories of five unique College alumni contributions to the University. We hope you'll delight in this history as much as we did. We encourage you not to miss the entry about the Columbia lion, with an excerpt from the 1910 nominating speech; ditto for the Sundial, which originally was functional thanks to a 16-ton sphere that topped the base.

And though we chose only five contributions, we know there are many more. If you have thoughts on other ways that College alumni have made Columbia what it is, we welcome letters with your ideas (cct@columbia.edu).

Elsewhere in the magazine, our cover story profiles screenwriter Justin Marks '02, co-creator of last year's smash hit *Shōgun*. The FX series is a must-see, as evidenced by the avalanche of awards it received in 2024 and 2025. Marks, who also has several film blockbusters under his belt, graduated with a degree in architecture, which may seem like an unlikely start. But writer Scott Meslow deftly brings out how that knowledge has informed Marks' approach to screenwriting throughout his career.

We also feature the Lion's Pride Honors, spotlighting nine inspiring young alumni, and we catch up with Dr. David Trofa '07, the head team physician for Athletics. Trofa graciously welcomed us to a women's basketball game, where we joined him on the sidelines for a glimpse of what his job entails. While we (thankfully!) didn't see him in action as a physician, his dedication and passion were on full display. Columbia's athletes are lucky to have him.

And *we* are lucky to have the astonishing archives of the Columbia Libraries as a resource. We urge anyone who's interested in taking their own deep research dive to make an appointment at RBML.

Enjoy the issue!

Alexis Boncy

Alexis Boncy SOA'11
Editor-in-Chief

CCT | Columbia College Today

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Bright Lights in the Big City

Hundreds of students turned out on Dec. 5 for the College's annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. Though gale-force winds resulted in canceled performances by Columbia's a cappella groups, attendees stayed cozy with hot cocoa and warm vibes. The countdown to the big moment began at 6:15 p.m., and then College Walk was lit, turning on the holiday season in Morningside Heights.

BRANDON VALLEJO

DIANE BONDAREFF

Message from the Dean

The College's Enduring Story

This year marks a historic milestone for the Columbia College Alumni Association (CCAA), as we celebrate the 200th anniversary of its founding. Throughout this issue of *CCT* you will find fascinating glimpses into key moments from the last two centuries of this community's rich history — and powerful reminders of how College alumni have made their mark on the University and the world, as well as on subsequent generations of students.

It is, of course, no accident that these glimpses of our shared past stand alongside stories of the remarkable work that College alumni are engaged in today — from creating cultural touchstones like FX's award-winning *Shōgun*, to building tools that bridge language gaps across global communities. Each is a part of the grand story of our alumni's work, over centuries, to drive our campus, communities and culture forward. Similarly, the work being done by today's undergraduates in Morningside Heights, across the country and around the world, is setting the tone for the futures they will shape.

That work, of course, is never finished and educational institutions are, by their very nature, constantly evolving. The College itself and the center of its academic life — the Core Curriculum — are designed to enhance the value of our education for successive generations through an ongoing process of reflection and reassessment. The University, and the society of which it is a part, have developed and adapted in ways unimaginable to prior generations, but our work has continued, and our mission has endured.

We must keep sight of the key elements of that longevity: the people who make this grand experiment possible and worthwhile. Namely, the students we teach and the alumni they become. This virtuous cycle, each drawing inspiration and benefits from the other, is foundational to the meaningful engagement that sustains our community.

Last January, in this space, I introduced the Undergraduate Community Initiative, which is kicking off its second year with a now-annual celebration of the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. This year's event features a keynote speech by Ben Jealous '94 — a former president of the NAACP and the current executive director of the Sierra Club — whose life's work and recent writings serve as a powerful lens through which our students and community can pause, examine and reflect on our ongoing work to realize our commitments to one another.

The power of this example is why we invite student leaders and scholars to events like the Alexander Hamilton Award and John Jay Awards dinners, why initiatives like the Odyssey Mentoring Program and our incredibly popular alumni-hosted dinners are so important, and why we welcome alumni back to campus to lend their voices and perspectives to issues facing students in the here and now.

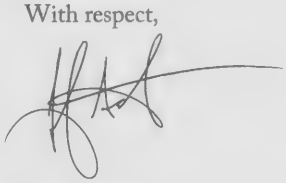
BRANDON VALLEJO

Staying warm with students at the Tree Lighting Ceremony on Dec. 5.

Since the CCAA was founded, the work of the College's alumni community has been defined and carried forward by leaders who understood that the ties of scholarship and shared experience forged among students are far stronger and more enduring than the shifting concerns of the day. And the generations of alumni who followed their example have continued to share in the earnest belief that the College is an enduring and vital force for good in human affairs.

As we enter this new term and this 200th anniversary year, I remain grateful for this community's enduring spirit and devotion to alma mater. I encourage you to stay engaged with the life of the College, and I look forward to welcoming you back to campus for Columbia Reunion 2025, from Thursday, May 29, to Saturday, May 31.

With respect,



Josef Sorett

Dean of Columbia College and the Henry L. and Lucy G. Moses Professor; Vice President for Undergraduate Education; Professor of Religion and African American & African Diaspora Studies

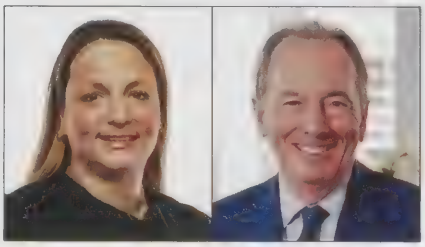
Around the Quads

2025 John Jay Awards

The John Jay Awards Dinner, which celebrates alumni for their distinguished professional achievement, will be held on Wednesday, March 5. The 2025 honorees are **Hon. Rolando T. Acosta '79, LAW'82,** partner, Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman and retired presiding justice, New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, First Department; **John A. MacPhee '89, PH'12,** CEO of The Jed Foundation; award-winning filmmaker and producer **Katharina Otto-Bernstein '86, SOA'92; Blondel A. Pinnock '90,** president and CEO of Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corp.; and **Steven S. Stuart '86,** managing director of Fortress Investment Group.

Wood and Gorman Are Newest Trustees

Alisa Amarosa Wood '01, BUS'08 and **James Gorman BUS'87** joined the Board of Trustees in October. Wood is a partner at Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co., where she is also co-CEO of KKR's Private Equity Conglomerate and a member of the investment committee for its Private Markets Equity Fund. She also is vice-chair of the Convent of the Sacred Heart Board of Trustees and vice-chair of the Board of Trustees of the Public Theater of New York. A 2019 John Jay Award honoree, Wood also sits on the Columbia University Investment Management Company Board, Columbia Business School Private Equity Board and the Private Equity Women's Investor Network Board of Directors.



COURTESY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Alisa Amarosa Wood '01 James Gorman BUS'87

Gorman is the executive chair of Morgan Stanley; he was the CEO from 2010 to 2023. Before he joined Morgan Stanley, he held a succession of executive positions at Merrill Lynch; he was previously a senior partner of McKinsey & Co. Gorman is also a director of the Walt Disney Co., a director of the Council on Foreign Relations, chair of the board of overseers of the Business School and a graduate member of the Business Council. He grew up in Australia and earned a B.A. and a law degree from the University of Melbourne.

Sherwin Award Recipients

The Gerald Sherwin Young Alumni Service Award, which honors individuals who have demonstrated exceptional service to the College's young alumni community, was presented to **Jessica Chi '15, BUS'21** and **Brian Chung '16** at the Columbia College Alumni Association Board of Directors meeting on Oct. 26.

Chi is global marketing director of Fenty Skin at Kendo Brands and co-chair of the Columbia College Young Alumni (CCYA) Development Committee. She has been co-chair of Columbia College Women's Outreach & Recruitment Committee, has served on a Reunion Committee and is a consistently enthusiastic supporter around organizing alumni events centering on community and engagement in the Bay Area.

Chung is the associate director of US Investments at Oxford Properties Group. He and his wife, Katherine Chung '16, remain enthusiastically engaged in the Columbia community as active members of the Young Leaders Council. He is a former president of CCYA (2019–21) and has mentored dozens of students through the Center for Continuing Education and the Odyssey Mentoring Program.

EILEEN BARROSO

HAMILTON MEDAL: Lee C. Bollinger, president emeritus of Columbia University and one of the nation's foremost First Amendment scholars, was honored with the 2024 Alexander Hamilton Award on Nov. 21 at a black-tie dinner in Low Rotunda. This year's event raised more than $1 million, which will benefit College students by supporting the Core Curriculum and financial aid. Celebrating at the dinner, left to right, were Dean Josef Sorett, Bollinger and Interim President Katrina Armstrong.

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Vilanova Named Rhodes Scholar

Luiza Diniz Vilanova '24 has been named a 2025 Rhodes Scholar; she is among 32 Americans chosen for the prestigious scholarship, which provides funding for two or three years of postgraduate study at Oxford.

Born in the United States and raised in Brazil, Vilanova graduated magna cum laude with concentrations in political science and education. As an undergraduate, Vilanova was a Laidlaw Scholar, investigating changes in campaign finance legislation and the impact of widespread civic engagement, and assessing strategies and methodologies to support women's political leadership. A recipient of Fundação Estudar's Leaders Scholarship, her other research projects included conducting comparative education policy analysis between Finland and Brazil, with a focus on infrastructure, teacher training and curriculum.

"Luiza has been such a generous and dynamic contributor to the Columbia community," says Ariella Lang, associate dean of academic affairs and director of undergraduate research and fellowships. "Both Oxford and the Rhodes communities will benefit from the energy she brings to everything she does."

Luiza Diniz Vilanova '24

JORG MEYER

Konstantina Zanou

By Jill C. Shomer

Konstantina Zanou discovered her life's work as a result of a misunderstanding.

Zanou was a student at the University of Athens when she decided to do a semester of study abroad in Italy. Not yet fluent in the language, Zanou signed up for what she thought was Renaissance art, but it was actually a history course on the Risorgimento, the national movement for Italian unification. "And that is how I became a historian of 19th-century Italy," she says with a laugh.

Zanou, an associate professor of Italian and the department's director of undergraduate studies, specializes in Mediterranean history, with an emphasis on culture and nationalism in Italy and Greece. She grew up as a refugee in Cyprus, in a society divided between Greek and Turkish communities. Her father is a theater director who created small roles for her; Zanou's comfort in that environment led her to spend three years studying and performing at the National Theatre of Greece Drama School.

But her parents also urged her to find a practical backup to acting, so she started taking courses in history and archaeology in Athens, which suited her better. "I was so much happier," Zanou says. "The product of my work was a thesis, and not *me*. But in hindsight, theater was very useful to the way I perceive history, and write about it."

After finding her passion for Italian history in Padua, she pursued an M.A. in London, and then earned a Ph.D. at the University of Pisa (in conjunction with a "European Doctorate" from the École Normale Supérieure in Paris) in 2007. Her dissertation was written in three languages; Zanou observes that for many Europeans of her generation, scholarship was encouraged to be transnational and multilingual. "We were meant to be academic hybrids — able to work anywhere, not connected to any home country or department," she says.

Having wrestled with questions of national identity since childhood, Zanou expanded her research focus to the Mediterranean, a multicultural region comprising 21 coastal countries. She taught in England and France while also spending time in Bulgaria and New York City (she was a Fulbright scholar at NYU); she started at Columbia in 2016.

Since then, Zanou's classes have included "Nationalism in Theory and History" and "The Making of Italy"; she also developed a two-part series, "Mediterranean Humanities," for the Global Core, and established opportunities for undergraduates at the Columbia Global center in Athens.

"Mediterranean Humanities II," which Zanou teaches, considers how the area, whose citizens represent a broad array of religious, ethnic, social and political differences, became canonized as the cradle of Western civilization. Zanou's 2018 book on a related topic, *Transnational Patriotism in the Mediterranean, 1800–1850: Stammering the Nation,* won the 2019 Edmund Keeley Book Prize in Modern Greek Studies, the 2019 Marraro Prize in Italian History and the 2020 Mediterranean Seminar Best Book Prize.

Her second book, *Sea of Antiquities: The Cesnola Brothers, the Global Mediterranean, and the Making of the Modern Museum,* about the emergence of archaeology, the collection of Cypriot antiquities at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the advent of authenticity as a value, is forthcoming. And Zanou is already at work on her third, an island history of the modern Mediterranean.

For each, Zanou employs a method called "microhistory": interpreting big geopolitical events through the lenses of individual lives. "Worlds can collapse in one generation, and even as a historian, you realize that people can never really be prepared — you just improvise" she says. "So I like to do a close-up, like in a movie, to focus on specific stories and small details."

It's a viewpoint that she says is very much influenced by her theatrical background. Zanou, who received the 2024 Division of Humanities Award for Community Building & Engagement, says she also enjoys the callback to performance that happens in front of the classroom.

"It's like creating an atmosphere of communication," she says. "Teaching brings in the element of connection with other people, of creating together, that I loved in my theater past."

She also encourages her students to, in a way, take a lesson from her personal history and stay open to the unexpected. "They make all these plans, and I've noticed a mentality that if you don't use a skill you've learned as a career, to earn money, that somehow it's a waste," Zanou says. "But I think many things find their place and value in what you do later — the pieces come together. I tell them, 'You are a unique assemblage of your path.'"

Student *Spotlight*

EMMA ASHER

Ella Wickham '25

Ella Wickham '25 (she/her) is a film and media studies major from New York City. Last fall she became the first woman to join the Columbia Kingsmen, now billed as the University's finest lower voices a cappella group. "People expect me to have a crazy, passionate story about how I wanted to be in the group forever," says Wickham, who also belongs to the jazz-oriented Uptown Vocal. She auditioned on a whim, part of a prankish tradition where members of different a cappella groups sign up for a spot when there's down time in the others' tryouts.

"I love their blue jackets," Wickham says with a laugh. "And I did go into it thinking their vibe was so fun — sophomoric in a very endearing way. I made the decision in the room that I wanted to actually be considered. And then I did my callback, and I got in, and it was pretty awesome."

Between the Kingsmen and Uptown Vocal, Wickham is in six rehearsals a week; she is also one of the co-writers of the 131st Varsity Show. She took time out for a conversation about the importance of inclusion, her favorite Kingsmen staple and other highlights of her College experience.

What's it been like to be the first woman in the Kingsmen?

It's definitely a group that I would never [have seen] myself interacting with. I went to an all-girls high school, so it really was a 180. It's kind of fun to be a little fly on the wall. But I've never felt that my voice wasn't elevated, that people were speaking over me or ignoring me because I am a girl. If anything, in a weird way, I feel like they listen to me and respect me more.

What's your favorite song to perform?

We have this thing, the Fresh'smen Concert, and all the newbies pick a song to sing with the group backing them. I did "Uptown Girl," which is one that I'd arranged for my all-girls group in high school. It was fun to bring that back in a new context. I also love "Sh-Boom." You know, "*Life could be a dream* … " It's such a Kingsmen staple, so it's fun to be a part of that.

Tell us about your role as the group's impact and inclusion chair.

I think that in any elite space or formerly exclusive space, there's always going to be some sort of transition that's maybe not the smoothest. As the group is changing, and more people of different identities are being included, it seemed like it would be a good idea to have a point person where, if anyone felt any kind of way, there could be someone who's not intimidating for people to speak with or work out some sort of resolution. More clubs are starting to have people whose job it is to make sure that people feel included no matter who they are.

What has been your favorite class so far at Columbia, and why?

In my freshman Fall semester, I ended up in this graduate school class, "Jazz in American Culture," taught by Professor Robert O'Meally. I learned how jazz has influenced both literature and media, especially in Black spaces, and how powerful a musical form it is, how it's a form of protest and resilience and affirmation. One of our guest lecturers was Spike Lee — how amazing. That's one of those experiences where, it's like, OK, this is why I like Columbia.

Did*You*Know?

Pop Music's "Delilah" Is a Columbian

The Plain White T's' "Hey There Delilah" turns 20 this year, but the lyrics are just as recognizable as they were in 2005. Lead singer Tom Higgenson asks his "Delilah" about what it's "like in New York City" and promises one day he'll "pay the bills with this guitar" despite the distance that separates them.

But those iconic lyrics aren't based in fiction. The real Delilah is Delilah DiCrescenzo '05, a Columbia track star with an impressive athletics career in addition to her claim to fame as Higgenson's muse for this song.

DiCrescenzo earned All-American honors, won three Ivy League Heptagonals steeplechase titles and still holds the third fastest time in school history in the women's 3,000m steeplechase. After graduation, she was sponsored by Puma and represented the United States in international track and field and cross country competitions.

She met Higgenson through a mutual friend during her sophomore year at the College. The two never had a romantic relationship, though Higgenson told DiCrescenzo he was going to write a song about her (she "was the most beautiful girl I had ever seen," he told *USA Today* in 2007). The song was released on the 2005 album *All That We Needed,* but started topping charts in 2006 after being marketed as a single.

"Delilah" earned two Grammy nominations in 2008, but lost to Amy Winehouse's "Rehab" for Song of the Year and Maroon 5's "Makes Me Wonder" for Best Duo/Group Pop Vocal Performance.

Despite the losses, DiCrescenzo had a great day — she got a glamourous trip to the awards ceremony as Higgenson's guest.

GETTY IMAGES

DiCrescenzo and Higgenson at the 2008 Grammy Awards.

Creating a Third Space

By Larry Jackson

One day in late September, I found myself looking up at Plato's name on Butler Library as protestors gathered at the Sundial, waving flags and chanting slogans that had become campus leitmotifs a few months earlier.

Near them, on College Walk, a smaller group of counter-protestors waved their flags and used a bullhorn to drown out the chants of their opponents.

I sat at a listening table on Butler Plaza talking quietly with a group of 30 or 40 people — mostly students, some faculty. We had no bullhorns or flags. Our opinions and identities were diverse.

There was the student who spent a gap year in Jerusalem and spoke about her Israeli friends, some now serving in the IDF, others peaceniks marching in the streets of Tel Aviv.

The German exchange student who spoke of his horror at seeing images of civilian deaths in Gaza, and his disgust with anti-semitic rhetoric.

EMMA ASHER

Core Curriculum director Larry Jackson

The graduate student who believed in free speech, but admitted that it was hard for him to listen to his Arab-American girlfriend's opinions about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which differed from his own.

We shared our stories, opinions and feelings; mostly, we listened.

What brought us together that day was not a desire to debate or arrive at a consensus, but a yearning for complexity. None of us felt that our experiences and convictions — or the experiences and convictions of others — could be neatly packed into an online post, soundbite or slogan. We wanted the space to think freely with others about messy realities like having friends who are both patriots and pacifists, feeling ambivalent about the political choices before us or falling short of our professed ideals.

Since that day in September, Columbia's Trust Collaboratory has organized more than a dozen of these listening tables in public spaces around campus, drawing hundreds of students, faculty, staff and alumni to talk about war, protest and the recent election.

The Center for the Core Curriculum has helped staff and promote these tables, and we are now working with the Trust Collaboratory to establish a program that will train students currently enrolled in Literature Humanities and Contemporary Civilization to facilitate these difficult dialogues. It is just one of the ways we are responding to the conflicts and divisions on campus.

We also launched the Deans' Practices in Community Building Fellowship, in which 25 undergraduates with diverse backgrounds and perspectives are developing projects that will bring people on campus together through service, the arts and dialogue, while reflecting on the ideas that they encounter in Core texts.

In Core classes, students contend with a range of experiences and perspectives in works of literature, philosophy, art and music that address the very issues that are now dividing us: war, injustice, bigotry, revenge. These works and the discussions they prompt provide occasions for students to listen, question long-held assumptions and reconsider entrenched opinions. Sometimes a text or another person's insight spurs students to revise their thinking; at other times, students discover ideas that deepen their convictions. This is what thinking looks like.

The Core, like democracy itself, rests on the premise that people will always disagree, but that we can, through practice, learn to disagree *better* and use our differences productively.

Yet, when students step outside the classroom, they enter toxic, polarized spaces that have lost faith in productive disagreement. Online anonymity and algorithms create echo chambers that reward extreme views, ugly prejudices and vitriolic rhetoric. Hyperbolic accusations, violent threats and calumny are common, where once they may have been condemned.

If we are to find a way out of this situation, it will require a different kind of public conversation, one that allows us to exchange diverse perspectives. It will require us to embrace public disagreement rather than ideological purity. It will mean abandoning simplistic talking points and tidy narratives so we can think out loud together.

In short, it will mean taking what we do in Core classes into our public spaces with projects like the listening tables and the community-building practices that 25 student fellows are now developing. If we are successful, these projects will create a third space between the classroom with its norms and the unruly political arenas where partisan conflict has replaced productive disagreement.

A week or two before participating in my first listening table, I was discussing Plato's *Republic* with my students in Contemporary Civilization. The text opens with Socrates making his way back to Athens when a group of men force him to stop. Rather than strongarm his way past them, Socrates tries to persuade them to let him go on.

The long journey of ideas that students embark on in Contemporary Civilization begins with a choice between force and persuasion. Students have long practiced persuasion in the Core. Now we are helping them emulate Socrates' choice outside the classroom.

ROAR, LION, ROAR

A Calling for Healing

Dr. David Trofa '07 keeps Lions performing at their peak // By Alexis Boncy SOA'11

It's a November night in Levien Gymnasium, women's basketball versus Florida Gulf Coast University, and forward Perri Page '26 is charging down the court alone on a fast break. An opponent catches Page just as she goes for a layup, knocking her in mid-air. Milliseconds pass. While most people in the arena are focused on the basket, Dr. David Trofa '07 — head team physician for Columbia Athletics — has his eyes on the floor where the two players will land.

"This is when I'm the most concerned," Trofa says, craning for a sightline from his seat behind the Lions bench. "They get hit from behind and land awkwardly — that's when they twist their knee."

Thankfully, Page landed well (albeit fouled; she went on to make both free throws). Trofa, meanwhile, leans back again and glances at the game clock. Less than six minutes to go. He has already noted a number of breath-holding moments: players careening out of bounds, players crashing into the folding chairs on the sidelines, cheerleaders performing lifts and other tricks. Technically he is not responsible for the last, but he says he'd be out there in a heartbeat were injury to happen. Who he *is* responsible for are the roughly 900 athletes across 31 teams that make up Columbia's vast varsity system.

Dr. David Trofa '07

JORG MEYER

Trofa, an orthopedic sports medicine surgeon specializing in knees and shoulders, has been in his role since July 2023, but he's had plenty of experience being a team physician. His résumé includes stints with the NFL's Carolina Panthers and MiLB's Charlotte Knights, and he assists the New York Yankees' head team physician, Dr. Christopher Ahmad SEAS'90.

"What initially attracted me [to this work] was the intricacies of minimally invasive surgeries," he says. "I was blessed to have tremendous mentors, whom I now call my partners, who amazed me with their ability to recreate anatomy."

Over time, however, he realized the real draw was working with and getting to know the athletes themselves. "Of course, nobody wants to have pain or be sidelined from an injury," he says. "But athletes aren't just looking to feel better — they're looking to perform at a higher level. And being around people with that constant motivation to improve and pursue excellence drives me. It makes this not a job at all. It's a calling, and an unbelievably special privilege."

One notable difference between Trofa's work in the pros and Columbia is the range of sports under his aegis. Lions endure punishing plays on the gridiron, get tangled up on soccer fields and push endurance to the limit on cross country runs — to name just a few ways that college competitors test their bodies. To care for them all, Trofa has assembled a treatment team that includes three other doctors with complementary expertise, Drs. Thomas Bottiglieri, Morgan Busko and Michael Saulle. (Busko was recruited for track and field alone, to handle the chronic overuse injuries that are endemic to the sport.) Trofa also works closely with nine athletics trainers who attend to individual teams. "They are our eyes and ears on a daily basis when we're not there," he says.

Trofa knows what it's like to be an athlete on the examining table. He was an aspiring varsity wrestler when he came to Columbia, and had dislocated both shoulders in his last high school match ("a rare injury," he says, "usually it's just one"). He thought he was sufficiently rehabilitated to give it a go — but when he tried out as a walk-on, he promptly re-dislocated both.

Dr. William N. Levine, Trofa's predecessor as head team physician, treated him and recommended surgery. "I immediately said, 'Nope, that sounds terrible; I just can't be an athlete anymore.'" Trofa laughs. (About a decade and many repeat injuries later, Trofa finally acquiesced to surgery; Levine wielded the scalpel.)

Though he always knew he wanted to be a doctor, Trofa credits his experience, and wanting to ensure others don't repeat his mistake, as reasons he pursued orthopedics. "Athletes are heartbroken when they're forced to medically retire or miss a single season, even a single game," he says. "I'm able to put myself in their shoes; it makes it easier to empathize with them."

Trofa graduated from Tufts University School of Medicine and did his residency in orthopedic surgery at Columbia University Irving Medical Center, where Levine became a close mentor. A fellowship in sports medicine followed at OrthoCarolina in Charlotte, N.C. Once back in New York, he cared for athletes at Manhattan College for four years before taking the Columbia role.

Levine, who was in the position for 25 years, emphasizes Trofa's commitment. "The best team physicians, like Dr. Trofa, have an undying, visceral passion for sports medicine and for the care of student athletes." The role means you're always on call, he says — and that's for any health reason, not just an orthopedic problem. "It's an all-encompassing job."

He adds that he immediately recognized Trofa's intensity when he encountered him as a fourth-year medical student. "And that intensity has been his approach to success in becoming a master of his craft. Nobody is going to outwork him, nobody is going to out-prepare him, nobody is going to out-study him. He is the guy you want in your corner, and that's what our student athletes deserve and what our Columbia athletics community wants."

Trofa does treat non-Lion patients, part of a weekly routine that has him shuttling to hospitals and clinics throughout the New York metro area and Westchester. Otherwise, he is at Dodge Fitness Center several times a week for "training room," when athletes come to be evaluated for injuries. He attends every football game, and he or a medical team member cover every home basketball game, men's and women's. He sees athletes for surgery, post-op and rehabilitation, and he's answering those phone calls at all hours. (He also carves out time for research; ACL reconstruction is a primary focus.)

Asked about the challenges of such a rigorous schedule, Trofa is seemingly nonplussed. "You get used to it," he says, adding that he couldn't do it without his wife's support. They have a 1-year-old son.

In Levien Gym that November night, Trofa shares that if he's not seated courtside, he snags a seat in the uppermost bleachers where the bird's-eye view gives him better perspective on the players' movements. He notes that already this year he's performed surgery on four of the women's basketballers, with another pending; meanwhile, the clock ticks down. "You really have to watch what's happening," he says. "They play hard to the last second, even when they've already won." He references a recent season-ending injury "that happened in the last two minutes of a game. Devastating."

After the buzzer, Trofa will go to the training room for last checks. "After two years, you really get to know the student-athletes, which makes the experience more meaningful and enjoyable," he says. "Caring for athletes is always special, but it's different when it's your alma mater. This is personal."

COLUMBIA ATHLETICS / STOCKTON PHOTO

Football Takes Ivy Title

For the first time in 63 years, the Lions football team has been crowned Ivy League champions. Columbia earned a 17–9 victory over Cornell on Nov. 23 to cement its spot in a three-way tie for first, along with Dartmouth and Harvard. The team ended the season with a 7–3 overall record, and went 5–2 in league play.

"Just a tremendous job by all the seniors, coaches and staff," said John Poppe, the Patricia and Shepard Alexander Head Coach of Football. "What a tremendous feeling. Sixty-three years [since the last Ivy League Championship] into now, and just seeing a lot of that history myself, this just brings a feeling of elation."

Columbia also had 14 student-athletes named to All-Ivy League Teams to set a program record, including first-team honorees wide receiver Bryson Canty '25, defensive lineman Ben Corniello '25 and defensive back Hayden McDonald '25.

Tennis Champion

Lions tennis star and three-time All-American Michael Zheng '26 captured the NCAA singles title in November, making him Columbia's first singles champion since 1906. Zheng defeated Michigan State's Ozan Baris 6–2, 4–6, 6–2.

Zheng had previously fought for the title in the last NCAA individual tournament, in May 2024, but fell in that outing in three sets. "Honestly, it's a huge relief," he said. "It feels amazing to finally get it done and get the title for myself and Columbia.

Michael Zheng '26

"I knew it was going to be a tough match today," Zheng continued. "I knew [Ozan] wanted it really badly and he was going to give it his best. I did the same. I thought, I'm going to make this third set as tough as possible."

MAKING A SCENE

HOW SCREENWRITER JUSTIN MARKS '02 TURNED *SHŌGUN* INTO A TELEVISION SENSATION

BY SCOTT MESLOW

IN THE SPRING OF 2013, *The Hollywood Reporter* ran a guest column with the headline "My Life as a Screenwriter You've Never Heard Of." Its author, Justin Marks '02, offered a revealing glimpse into the life of a workaday writer in the Hollywood trenches. Over the course of his still-young career, he said, he had written 20-odd screenplays — the vast majority of which were never produced and would never be produced — while fielding the occasional call from an agent or producer with the familiar but disappointing news that the studio had decided to pass on the project.

"We learn to numb ourselves to the ups and downs. Especially the downs," wrote Marks. "But when it picks up — when there's a movie being made or a star being attached or a deal being closed — man, that high feels like it'll last forever."

Smash cut to today, and it's safe to say Marks couldn't publish a column about being a screenwriter you've never heard of. In the years following the publication of that cheerfully self-deprecating story, Marks has achieved a remarkable run of high-profile hits. He wrote the screenplay for Disney's blockbusting 2016 remake of its animated classic *The Jungle Book*. He co-wrote the story for 2022's *Top Gun: Maverick*, a long-delayed sequel that charmed moviegoers and critics alike on its way to a $1.5 billion gross and an Academy Awards Best Picture nomination. And most recently — working alongside his wife, Rachel Kondo — he co-created the hit FX series *Shōgun*, which made headlines in September when it became the most awarded single season of television in the history of the Emmy Awards.

Marks' work on two blockbusters — the live action remake of *The Jungle Book* and *Top Gun: Maverick* — established him as a creative force.

IF YOU THINK A SCREENWRITING CAREER is an unlikely path for someone who graduated from the College with a degree in architecture, Marks has an explanation. "I'd wanted to write movies since I was 12," he says. "I thought the film program would be a great home for me." But during his freshman year, he received a paradigm-shifting piece of advice from Professor Larry Engel SOA'76: "If you *have* other interests, you should pursue those other interests at Columbia." Marks settled on architecture, he says, and to this day much of his screenwriting process is informed by it. At times, he still works on a drafting table, which he calls his "happy place."

As it turns out, architecture and screenwriting have a lot in common. Creating both a great building and a great TV series requires a master plan that gives deep consideration to the big picture as well as apparently minuscule details. Both succeed or fail due to the collaboration of many, many experts across a range of disciplines, all working together toward a singular goal. And both require a mastery of craft that should, at its most effective, be invisible to the average person who encounters it — something that *feels* right in a way that can't easily be articulated. In the writer's room, Kondo says, Marks often cites his favorite piece of architectural wisdom: There's no such thing as large scale or small scale — only human scale.

COURTESY OF FX NETWORKS

COURTESY JUSTIN MARKS '02

Left: On the set of *Shōgun*, shot in Vancouver, B.C. **Above:** Marks, right, observes a scene with Cosmo Jarvis as John Blackthorne.

Marks built architecture directly into his scripts. After moving to Los Angeles post-graduation to launch his Hollywood career, one of the first screenplays he sold was set in a prison for supervillains, and he delighted in the process of crafting a panopticon-like stronghold that could contain so many baddies with unique superpowers. Even now, "I can't understand the characters until I understand the world they live in," Marks says. "It's still the thing that brings me joy."

It's a philosophy he carried into *Shōgun,* which draws a considerable amount of its power from its setting. Adapted from James Clavell's bestselling 1975 novel of the same name, the 10-episode first season follows John Blackthorne, an English sailor marooned in Japan in the year 1600. As Blackthorne becomes a wild card in the complex political game being played between the shrewd lord Yoshii Toranaga and his scheming rivals, he finds himself first repelled, but eventually transformed, by his immersion in a culture unlike anything he's ever experienced.

It's easy to see why FX saw blockbuster potential in *Shōgun.* A previous 1980 miniseries adaptation, starring Richard Chamberlain and Toshiro Mifune, had been an award-winning hit, and that was decades before shows like HBO's *Game of Thrones* hooked audiences on ambitious, moody prestige dramas full of political machinations and stark twists. But it's also easy to see how *Shōgun* — the most expensive scripted series in FX history — could have emerged as a pricey, regrettable boondoggle. It is, Marks once joked, "a very expensive subtitled Japanese period piece whose central climax revolves around a poetry competition."

Still, FX had been trying to get a fresh adaptation off the ground for years, which is why the network sent Marks a copy of the novel shortly after he signed an all-around development deal in 2018. It was a 1,312-page doorstop, making the prospect of adaptation both daunting and tantalizing. "He was, rightfully, kind of nervous about it," Kondo says. "But I could tell it was resonating. He would wake up and sit there, for pretty much eight hours a day, to read it as fast as he could." Ultimately, they agreed: "If something can be more than 50 years old and still feel timely, it's probably more timeless than anything," Kondo says.

For the couple, the key to *Shōgun* was the depth of the characters and the relationships between them.

MARKS OFTEN CITES HIS FAVORITE PIECE OF ARCHITECTURAL WISDOM: THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS LARGE SCALE OR SMALL SCALE — ONLY HUMAN SCALE.

But they knew the way to make it stand out in the crowded TV landscape was to tell the story as authentically as possible. Though *Shōgun* is historical fiction, its plot closely echoes a key moment in the history of feudal Japan, and the costumes, trappings and even musical techniques of the era were meticulously studied and then recreated. Many of its characters speak only Japanese, and the difficulty and necessity of translation to non-speakers is one of the show's recurring themes. The show's scripts went through a modern version of that process: Written in English, then translated into Japanese by a specialist in the period-accurate writing style *Jidaigeki,* then subtitled in English with an eye for capturing the full nuance of each word spoken.

COURTESY OF FX NETWORKS

Above: Marks' architectural knowledge helped to cultivate *Shōgun*'s drama; thin *shoji* screens and sliding doors meant privacy was never guaranteed. **Below:** Characters Lord Toranaga and Yabushige have a revealing conversation.

The process took months. "I would be lying, and so would [FX chairman] John Landgraf, if he said we never had a conversation ... not to say that it *should* be in English, but to say, 'Are we sure we can do this? Because here's what we think it'll cost,'" says Marks. "And I came up with a four- or five-point bullet point plan on how we were going to try to do subtitles differently — make it sort of special — and that's why it would be worth it. And they said, 'OK.' They believed in it, too."

It's in crafting *Shōgun*'s world that Marks' knowledge of architecture came into play once again — the setting facilitating much drama in a story where a single poorly chosen or misunderstood word could lead to a disastrous fate. "Look at the *shoji* screens, or even the *fusuma* — the wooden doors," says Marks. "They are so thin you can hear everything on the other side. So now, you need to understand that these characters are alert to the fact that they're never alone. And every word we would write for them had to be spoken with that in mind."

WHEN *SHŌGUN* PREMIERED IN FEBRUARY 2024, IT WAS CLEAR THAT FX HAD SOMETHING BIG ON ITS HANDS. THE QUESTION WAS *HOW* BIG.

Though everyone involved with the ballooning creative challenge of *Shōgun* was coming to grips with the enormity of the task ahead, there was one additional production hurdle no one could have anticipated: the Covid-19 pandemic, which led to repeated shutdowns of the show's sets in Vancouver, B.C. One of the few upsides, Marks recalls, was that he and Kondo's two daughters — both born during the show's lengthy production — could occasionally use the large wooden ship constructed for the show as a playground.

BY THE TIME *Shōgun* premiered to almost universal acclaim in February 2024, it was clear that FX had something big on its hands. The question was *how* big. The answer came in July, when the show scored a whopping 25 Emmy nominations. Some were in the technical categories, such as production design and costume design, that had required painstaking historical accuracy. Others were for the show's many groundbreaking performances, highlighting Japanese actors such as Hiroyuki Sanada and Tadanobu Asano, who had rarely received attention in mainstream Hollywood. And the series itself earned a Best Drama nomination, which it handily won — the big capper on an awards run that ultimately saw *Shōgun* walk away with 18 trophies.

Attending the Emmys was "scary, terrifying, insane," says Marks. As the show transitioned from high-profile gamble to an awards juggernaut in real time, "I could feel the room turning. 'Again, *Shōgun*.' And we're just sinking lower and lower in the seats."

What brought him joy, Marks concluded later, wasn't a stack of golden statuettes that would overcrowd even the largest mantle. It was what they meant to the people who — like him — had toiled in the industry for years with minimal recognition for their endless hours and sleepless nights. "People sacrificed so much to make this show," says Marks. "That's the thing I think of the most. Teary-eyed conversations with some of our Japanese crew who were there that night, who came over to work. For this show, they gave up their families for almost a year."

That record-setting Emmy run could have been a fairytale ending for a series that seemed destined to go

COURTESY OF FX NETWORKS

CBS PHOTO ARCHIVE / GETTY IMAGES

Shōgun continued its awards run on Jan. 5, winning four Golden Globes including for Best Television Series - Drama. Marks (center) attended with his wife, *Shōgun* co-creator Rachel Kondo (to his right).

down as one of modern television's great one-season wonders. But by then, bucking the limited-series designation on which *Shōgun* had originally been sold and built, FX expressed interest in what a second season might look like.

IN THAT 2013 COLUMN for *The Hollywood Reporter,* Marks described one of the great joys of being a screenwriter: the opportunity to wander through an entire film set that had been crafted, entirely, from images that sprang from your head. Even when his career was at lower ebbs, "I'd been privileged to walk through my own imagination," he wrote.

When I mention that sentimental reflection in the context of *Shōgun,* Marks laughs. "The thing about showrunning, I guess, is that you get beaten to death by your own imagination." Kondo says she sees a clear difference between working with Justin the screenwriter and Justin the showrunner: "One is happy, and the other one is pissed." But he's also, she says, a "reluctant genius" at the art of shepherding a project as big as *Shōgun*. "Justin's pretty relentless. He just kept pushing," Kondo says. "He is kind of the guy on top of the mountain — not unlike [*Shōgun* character] Toranaga. He has all the power. But it's an incredibly lonely place to be."

The show's writing room formally reunited last summer to map out what a second and even third season might look like. "It was one thing to take a nosedive off a cliff, not knowing how scary it was going to be," says Marks. "It's another thing to go up and do it again." And unlike the first season, which had the spine of Clavell's novel, future seasons of *Shōgun* will be venturing into the unknown; the first season ended where the novel ended, so the show's next arc will be original.

Marks is, perhaps understandably, reluctant to go into too much detail about *Shōgun*'s future before a single frame has been shot. "I think people are going to be pretty surprised with a lot of things that happen in the first episode alone," he allows. But he's also confident that the show's creative brain trust has found the right way forward. "It took us a couple years to really come to these ideas. So we didn't come to them lightly. We have a healthy respect for the monster in front of us, I think."

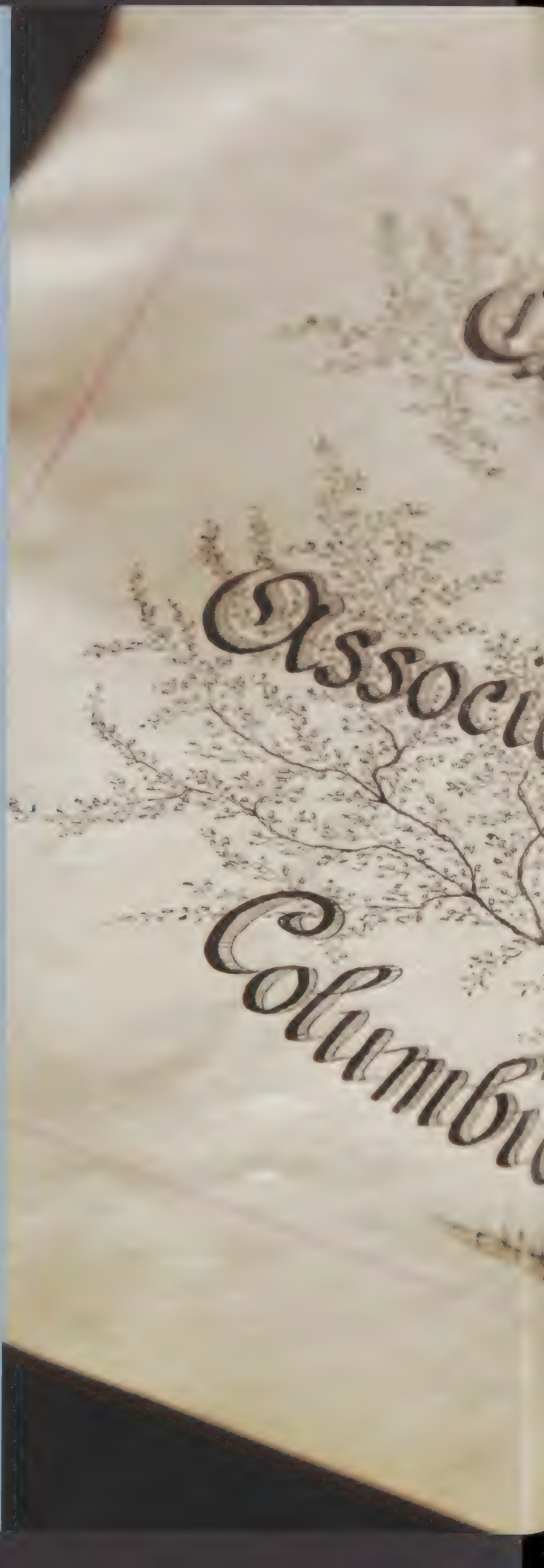
Now, as Marks prepares to return to *Shōgun*'s world, he once more comes back to the language of architecture. "When it comes to the sets — in the world that you're building with your crew — the show that you're able to build is an expression of, 'We were here,'" he says with a smile. "And it lingers. You can't ever take that away."

Scott Meslow *is a Los Angeles Press Club–nominated entertainment and culture critic. His next book,* A Place Both Wonderful and Strange: The Extraordinary Untold History of Twin Peaks, *will be published by Running Press in 2026.*

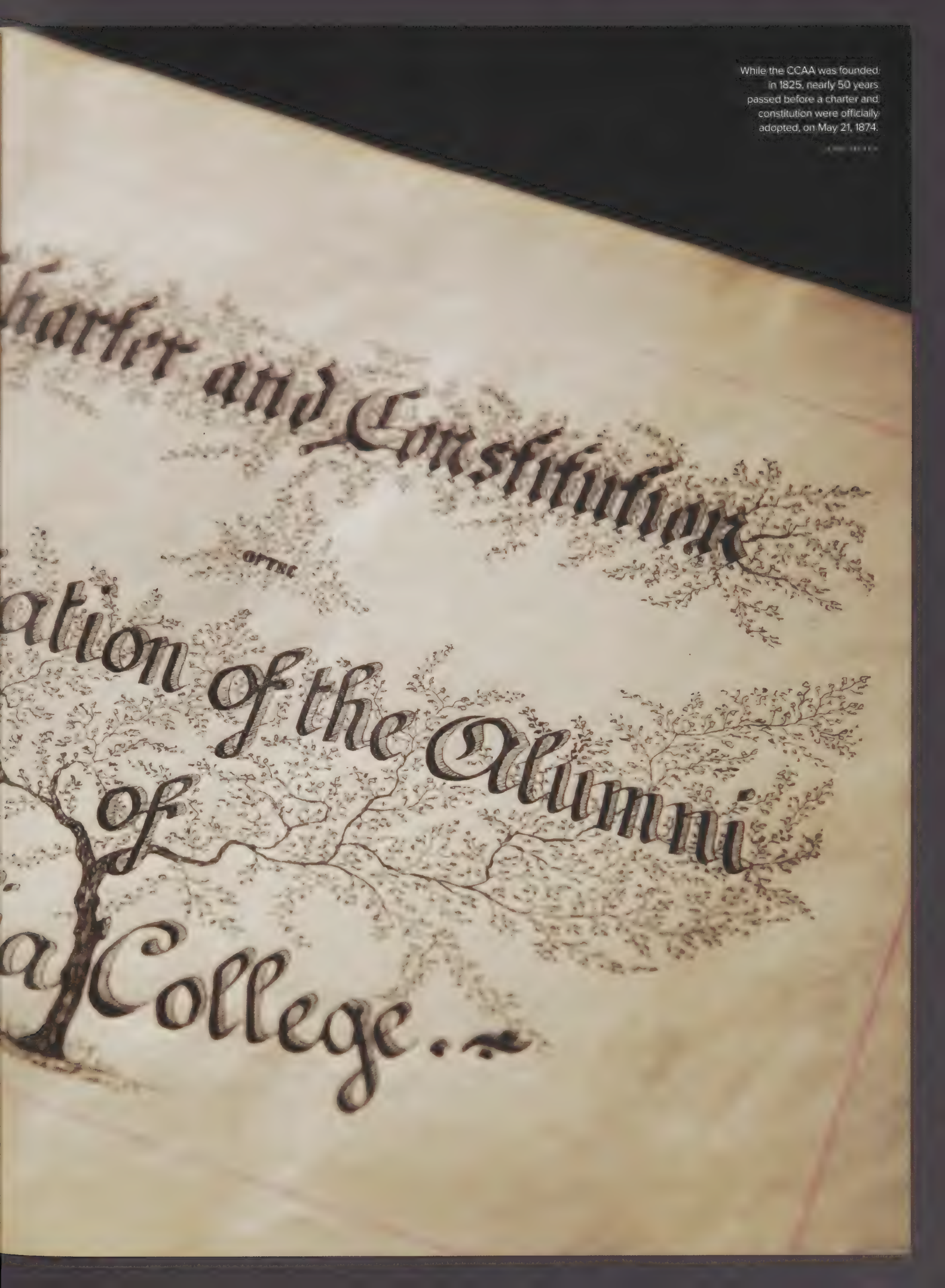
A SALUTE TO THE CCAA

In honor of its 200th anniversary, we look back at the origins and influence of Columbia's first alumni organization

Written by Alexis Boncy SOA'11
with research from Jill C. Shomer, Emily Driehaus and the Columbia University Libraries



While the CCAA was founded in 1825, nearly 50 years passed before a charter and constitution were officially adopted, on May 21, 1874.



The CCAA annual dinner on Feb. 3, 1890, was held at the Hotel Brunswick, then at 225 Fifth Ave.

UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE, COURTESY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

The Columbia College Alumni Association celebrates a big anniversary in 2025 — 200 years! To mark the occasion, we dug into the University archives to learn more about the CCAA's origins and early history. What we found, in newspaper clippings, correspondence, event programs and more, underscored just how much alumni have shaped the College and its community — from its traditions, to its culture and philanthropic spirit, to its physical campus. Thank you, CCAA!

The CCAA Commences

Today, having an alumni association feels like a given, of clear benefit both to a school and its graduates. And yet Columbia's earliest alumni didn't organize themselves as a collective — at least not officially — until close to 70 years after the first Commencement was held, in 1758. (A class of five perhaps didn't need such formalities to stay connected.) One early attempt to band together, ambiguously called the Literary Institution, fizzled out in the early 1800s after two years.

Then, on May 4, 1825, a group of College alumni — along with their families, school leaders and faculty — came together to celebrate the anniversary of Columbia's first Commencement. The festivities included an address by writer and professor Clement Clarke Moore CC 1798. Though he had yet to claim authorship, just a few years prior Moore had penned the poem that eventually brought his greatest fame, "A Visit from St. Nicholas." (Or as its opening memorably goes, "'Twas the night before Christmas ...").

Moore's qualifications to speak that day, however, rested on his College connections. His family played a prominent role in the school's early history, including his father, Bishop Moore CC 1768, who twice served as its president. Clement was valedictorian of his class, and he became a member of the Board of Trustees in 1813 (a role he held until 1857).

Moore's address, later published as a book, was given in the College chapel (campus was then located on a three-acre site at Park Place, overlooking the Hudson River). He focused on Columbia history, winding his way through "four distinct periods": the royal charter in 1754; the Revolutionary War period that saw the suspension of classes; the years marked by oversight of the Regents; and finally, the ascension of the trustees.

But as he noted in his opening, he also wanted to consider "some of the advantages which may result from this association of her Alumni." Among the benefits he foresaw, Moore said their "union" might help to excite an appetite for learning. ("Happy would it be for the interests of literature and of society," he observed, "if the young could be made sensible of the folly of those excuses for the neglect of study which are so often heard from them.")

He later shifted to a wider perspective, envisioning the association's usefulness to Columbia: "The reunion of her Alumni at stated periods must tend to produce an *esprit du corps* in her favour which seems to have been always wanting in this city," he said. "The name of Alumnus of Columbia College will become a badge of honorable distinction. The welfare, interests, and progress of the institution will be watched over more attentively and by more eyes than heretofore. Its merits and usefulness will become more extensively known, and its deficiencies better understood; its reputation will spread wider, and its improvement be more rapid."

Moore got a bit philosophical at the end, with a meditation on friendship and the effects of the passage of time. "Whatever tends to draw men together in the bonds of harmony and friendship, is most desirable in this world of jealousy, suspicion, resentment, pride, and coldness," he said. "The asperities which may have existed among some of our number during our collegiate course, are now obliterated, or felt only as the reminiscences of boyhood; and by these reunions may be converted into friendships. The friendships, too, which existed among fellow-students, and which have since decayed, may here be revived."

Notably, as *The New York Evening Post* reported, following Moore's address "it was proposed and unanimously agreed, that in order to cherish an affectionate remembrance of college days, and to promote a spirit of brotherly good will and kind feelings among the graduates, a book be prepared to receive the signature of every alumnus desirous of joining, as an associate, in the future celebrations of the anniversary."

And thus, the Columbia College Alumni Association was born.

Presidential Priorities

Roar, Lion, Roar! No Columbia College Alumni Association anniversary celebration would be complete without hearing from the alumni leaders who have kept the community going, and growing, behind the scenes. We asked the most recent CCAA presidents what their priorities were and how they carried out the association's mission during their term. Here's how five of them — along with recently inaugurated president Raymond Yu '89, SEAS'90 — responded:

The CCAA's mission is to represent the best interests of the College's various constituencies; during my term, the CCAA carried out its mandate by 1) promoting an atmosphere of partnership and cooperation between the College and Arts & Sciences; 2) increasing participation in the Columbia College Fund and in development more generally; 3) developing a strong working relationship between the CCAA and the nascent Columbia Alumni Association; and 4) supporting intercollegiate athletics (which was in the early years of a rebuilding and strengthening initiative that continues to the present).

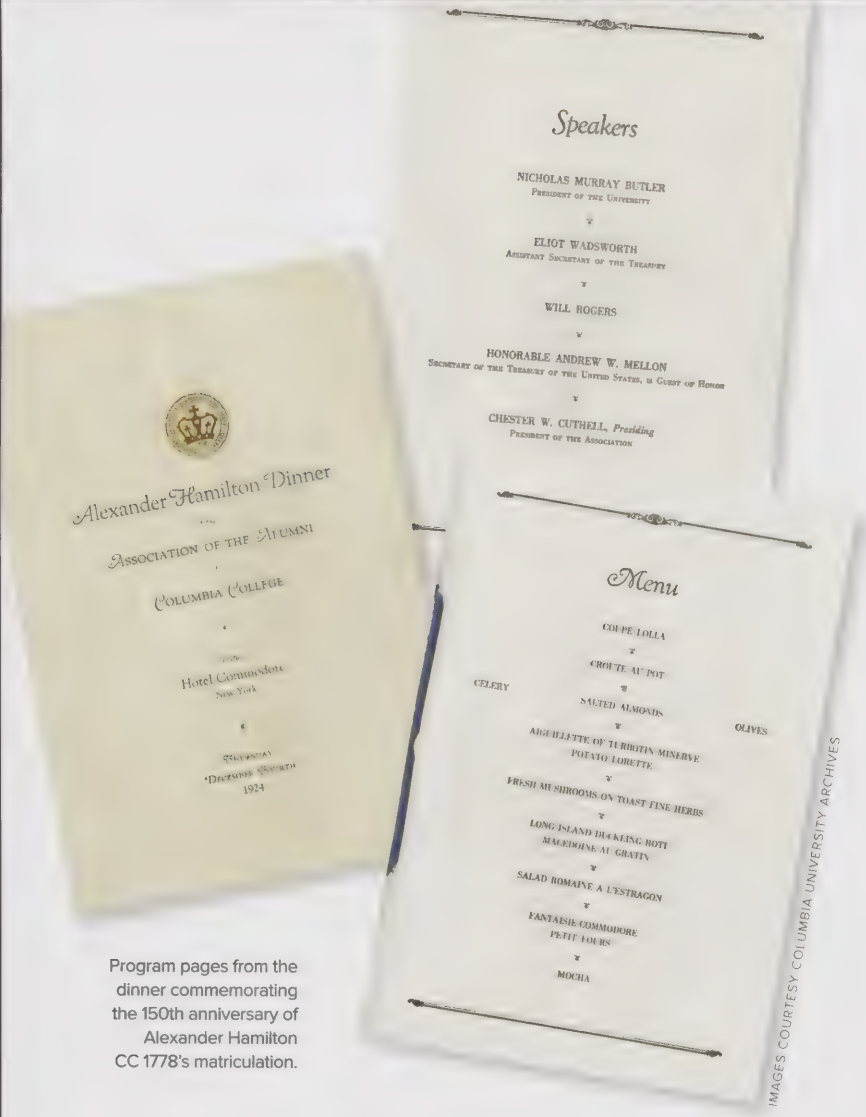
— Brian Krisberg '81, LAW'84; 2006–08

The first half of my term was a tumultuous time at the College. I was the first woman to head the CCAA, with Michele Moody-Adams the first female dean; she resigned during the first month of my term. My earliest official acts were working with Board of Visitors leadership and President Lee C. Bollinger and his staff to install and onboard interim dean James J. Valentini.

"The name of Alumnus of Columbia College will become a badge of honorable distinction."

At the same time, there was tremendous turnover on the Alumni Affairs staff. Alongside Valentini, my focus was leading the alumni volunteers who were keeping engagement and development programs moving forward as well as increasing the visibility of the CCAA so that our alumni knew they had a voice and representation at Columbia. I also worked closely with Valentini on a strategy for engagement and staffing that was focused on the needs of alumni and students. This included a major reorganization of the CCAA governance structure.

As I reflect on that time and how far the CCAA has come during the last two decades, I am struck by the consistency, dedication and hard work of the board members and particularly the leadership. There is always some level of crisis but as CCAA president you have the support and knowledge of your prede-



Program pages from the dinner commemorating the 150th anniversary of Alexander Hamilton CC 1778's matriculation.

IMAGES COURTESY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

cessors and an endless stream of smart, creative and passionate volunteers to tackle the goal of ensuring the best Columbia College possible.

— Kyra Tirana Barry '87, 2011–14

My primary goal was to improve alumni-student interactions, and to make good on Dean James J. Valentini's mantra of 100 percent engagement for all alumni. I traveled across the United States and internationally to meet with other alums and encouraged alumni to join class Facebook groups, particularly from classes of neighboring years.

I was also focused on creating a collaborative environment through structured committees and giving the many CCAA volunteers a voice in driving success. During my term, the CCAA helped to launch the Columbia College Women Mentoring Program, which evolved into the Odyssey Mentoring Program in 2017. We continued the work of building alumni presence at Homecoming, and, most excitingly, supported the launch of Core to Commencement, the first fundraising and engagement campaign dedicated exclusively to the College.

— Douglas Wolf '88, 2014–17

In my time as president, the CCAA benefited from an active partnership with Dean James J. Valentini. We established the Odyssey Mentoring Program in 2017, designed to connect alumni with students and young alumni interested in connecting with older alumni for career or life advice. The Student-Alumni Journey Committee was created to develop additional connections among alumni and students. Another notable accomplishment was the launch of our alumni-student dinner series, which allowed for small-group conversations.

The Homecoming and Reunions Committee recognized the importance of these two signature events in reconnecting alumni with classmates and with the College. It helped drive improved reunion attendance and programming and expanded Homecoming from a one-day event to multiple days of programming, including festivities on and around campus.

During the 2019–20 academic year, we celebrated the centennial of the Core Curriculum with a series of on-campus and virtual events and programming. We had a gala planned for Spring 2020, which was unfortunately canceled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

It was an exceptionally productive time for the CCAA and I'm delighted that the initiatives we embarked upon are still flourishing to this day.

— Michael P. Behringer '89, 2017–20

There was a lot of change both at the CCAA and at Columbia during my time as president. My main focus was reengaging alumni after the lingering challenges of Covid-19, adjusting to new leadership at the College and University, and navigating the campus tensions of 2024.

To support the CCAA's mission, I worked on two key initiatives. First was a long-term effort to strengthen alumni engagement. One area of focus was to spotlight the remarkable intellectual life at the College. We formed an Intellectual Engagement Committee to bring alumni and faculty together, creating programs that showcase academic content from our incredible faculty.

Another area was tackling concerns from our broad base of alumni about the tensions roiling campus. Our approach started with listening — educating ourselves on the issues, hearing different perspectives and connecting with students. In response, we focused our existing programs like AlumniTALKs, alumni-hosted dinners with students and reunion panels on current University issues. We provided opportunities to learn more about the challenges students were facing and to stay connected with the community.

These efforts were all about keeping the alumni network vibrant, engaged and supportive. Columbia is at its best when we all come together, and I'm proud of the ways we worked to make that happen.

— Sherri Pancer Wolf '90, 2023–2024

I plan to carry out the CCAA's mission by enhancing and broadening engagement opportunities that support and strengthen our alumni community as well as the College. We also want to meet our alumni where they are by expanding our programming and events to more geographic locations. Creating more opportunities for alumni to connect with each other and students and keeping them informed about Columbia is vital to our mission.

In partnering with the College and University, we need to ensure we have active, clear and substantive communication with our alumni community. This year is a milestone for the CCAA. We look forward to celebrating our 200th anniversary throughout the year with College alumni from around the world, as we reflect on how Columbia helped to shape our lives and the impact alumni have had on society.

— Raymond Yu '89, SEAS'90; 2025–

How Alumni Made the University Unique

The Columbia Lion

On April 4, 1910, George Brokaw Compton CC 1909, LAW 1913 took the floor at an alumni association meeting and delivered an impassioned speech. The future lawyer clearly knew how to persuade a crowd. Working his way through four typed pages, underlined in places for emphasis, he laid a careful groundwork, building to the proposal that, he shared, he'd been mulling for more than a year — that Columbia should adopt a mascot.

Among other things, Compton spoke to the assembled group about pride, and the responsibility held by the alumni association to stoke enthusiasm for the College. "We can never have too much," he said. "We will put Columbia so far in advance and so high above all similar institutions that no one shall have the temerity to even question her supremacy." He noted the importance of cherishing old traditions while establishing new ones: "We need more pegs on which to hang the garments of true College spirit." And he conjured the rival representatives of other schools, already "immortalized in song and story" — Michigan's wolverine, Princeton's tiger, Yale's bulldog.

Finally, with theatrical flourish, he came to his pitch:

"In the Pleistocene age an animal, huge in size and without a worthy rival, roamed over England, the 'King of Beasts.' He has been called the most splendid combination in nature of majestic beauty with surpassing strength. His voice is peculiarly striking and impressive; loud, deep-toned, solemn.

"Do you not now hear roars from his lair on Morningside reverberating and reechoing among the Palisades, just beyond the 'lordly Hudson'? What better symbol than this to express our lofty conceptions of the nobility and royalty of Columbia? What better tinder to fire our enthusiasm? Might he not again and again inspire lyric strains, enthusiastic and lofty? Might not such a mascot herald abroad Columbia's fame in song, and in a thousand different ways? ...

"As 'God save the King' gave way to 'Hail Columbia' let the 'Lion of England' yield to the 'Lion of Columbia.' We have the king's crown, let us have the lion."

Compton's motion passed, and he and CCAA president James Duane Livingston CC 1880 subsequently presented a banner bearing the leonine emblem to the Columbia Collection. He was dubbed Leo Columbiae.

Columbia's mascot, seen here in 1920, was originally named Leo Columbiae.

Columbia's students were not so quick to embrace the idea; the matter was debated for several weeks, spilling into the pages of *Spectator* and other publications. Some thought the lion was too closely tied to British imperialism. Others suggested an eagle, while another group lobbied for choosing Matilda the Harlem Goat. (Legend has it that Matilda, who resided with her owner at a small home on the corner of 120th Street and Amsterdam Avenue, was loaned to students for pranks.) *Spectator* soon threw up its hands, announcing in its April 22, 1910, issue that "no more space in its columns can be devoted to this subject."

On May 4, 1910, the Student Board put an end to the controversy and voted to make the lion the official mascot. Compton later received a Columbia Alumni Medal for his seminal contribution. Meanwhile, the lion's current incarnation, the affable Roar-ee, was introduced in 2005.

The Sundial

In 1897, when the University moved from its home at 49th Street and Madison Avenue to Morningside Heights, the change left decades of graduates without ties to campus. Class gifts in the form of sculptures and other architectural adornments were a way for alumni to build a connection to the new campus, quite literally.

So it was that the Class of 1885 decided it would mark the 25th anniversary of its graduation with a monumental contribution: a 16-ton spherical sundial.

Columbia master planners McKim, Mead & White designed the landmark — a nine-foot circular base atop which sat a massive granite "sunball," nearly seven feet in diameter. But the class' own Harold Jacoby CC 1885, the Rutherford Professor of Astronomy, played a crucial role in its conception. Jacoby made the calculations that allowed the sphere to act as a gnomon, the

The Sundial was originally functional thanks to the 16-ton green granite sphere that sat atop the base.

part of a sundial that casts a shadow to tell time. (Notably, he also helped map the stars and constellations in the design of Grand Central Terminal's vaulted ceiling.)

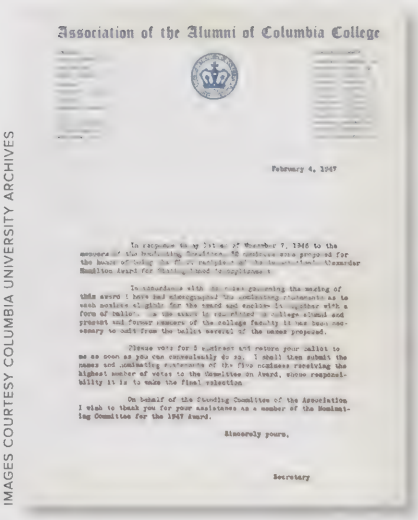
Jacoby calibrated the gnomon to align with Eastern Standard Time. It cast its shadow onto two bronze plates indicating the month and day of the year, hitting its mark at noon each day. Jacoby believed the sundial would have "distinct educational value," he told *Columbia Alumni News* in 1910, and he imagined students gathering routinely at midday and wondering at the precision of its workings. It was never off by more than a fraction of a minute.

Meanwhile, sculptor William Ordway Partridge was commissioned to create the brass plates that encircled the base. Partridge had attended Columbia and would have graduated with the Class of 1885 had he not withdrawn for health reasons. He was one of the University's go-to artists of the time; he created the bronze statues of Alexander Hamilton CC 1778 outside Hamilton Hall and Thomas Jefferson outside the Journalism School, as well as the bust of John Howard Van Amringe CC 1860 that anchors the Van Am Quad.

Partridge dreamed up 12 icons representing the cycles of the day, with fanciful names such as "Torches of the Morning," "Chanticleer" and "Love Tempers the Night Wind." An inscription on the base reads "*Horam Expecta Veniet*" ("Await the hour; it will come).

The completed Sundial was installed in 1914, four years later than the class' anniversary goal. Butler Library had not yet been built, and so in its early years the monument sat adjacent to what was then the football field.

In 1933 the sphere began to show fissures, and by 1944 a large crack had developed. Attempts were made to slow the damage, but the sphere was ultimately removed in 1946. Jacoby's vision of the Sundial as a gathering place, however, has lived on.


Association of the Alumni of Columbia College

February 4, 1947

In response to my letter of November 7, 1946 to the members of the Nominating Committee, 58 candidates were proposed for the honor of being the first recipient of the Association's Alexander Hamilton Award for Outstanding Accomplishment.

In accordance with the rules governing the voting of this award I have now arranged the nominating statements as to each nominee eligible for the award and enclose it together with a form of ballot. As the award is restricted to college alumni and present and former members of the college faculty it was necessary to omit from the ballot several of the names proposed.

Please vote for 3 candidates and return your ballot to me as soon as you can conveniently do so. I shall then submit the names and nominating statements of the five nominees receiving the highest number of votes to the Committee on Award, since responsibility it is to make the final selection.

On behalf of the Standing Committee of the Association I wish to thank you for your assistance as a member of the Nominating Committee for the 1947 Award.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary

A letter, dated Feb. 4, 1947, outlining the voting process for the first Alexander Hamilton Award.

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The Alexander Hamilton Award

For all the many achievements of College alumni, in 1946 the CCAA found itself contending with a perception problem. Simply put, the wider world didn't know when its leaders and luminaries were Columbians. The solution: a new award that would give public recognition to alumni "who have distinguished themselves in their respective fields of human endeavor." Furthermore, the CCAA secretary wrote, it "seemed appropriate" that the award be named for one of the College's most illustrious graduates, Alexander Hamilton CC 1778.

In fact, the CCAA had already celebrated Hamilton in 1924, with a dinner marking the 150th anniversary of the Founding Father's matriculation (vaudevillian Will Rogers supplied the entertainment). The honored guest was Treasury Secretary Andrew W. Mellon, who was hailed as a second Hamilton but was not, however, a College alum. Two decades later, CCAA members wanted to enlist Hamilton's name to pay tribute to their own.

A special committee carefully crafted the award guidelines, including that eligibility be extended to any living alumnus of the College or to present or former members of the faculty. The guidelines also specified the design of the medal itself — it was to be made of Tiffany bronze, with a bust of Hamilton on one side and a reproduction of Low Library on the other.

Thirty-two nominees were put forward for the first Hamilton honor, given in 1947. They hailed from wildly disparate fields, including lyricist Oscar Hammerstein II CC 1916; William Joseph Donovan CC 1905, LAW 1908, the head of the Office of Strategic Services (predecessor to the CIA); publisher Alfred Knopf CC 1912; Chinese politician and diplomat V.K. Wellington Koo CC 1909, GSAS 1912; *New York Times* titan Arthur Hays Sulzberger CC 1913; and biochemist John Howard Northrop GSAS 1915, who had recently won a Nobel Prize.

The overwhelming choice, however, was Nicholas Murray Butler CC 1882. As University president from 1902 to 1945 — the longest-serving president in Columbia history — Butler was widely recognized as having elevated Columbia to a position among the world's leading institutions for higher education and research. Among his many accomplishments, he oversaw the creation of the Journalism School, the Business School and the School of Dentistry; doubled the size of campus; and significantly increased enrollment. The Core Curriculum was also established during his tenure.

Butler received the award in a ceremony at his home on June 9, 1947. Frank Hogan CC 1924, LAW 1928, the New York district attorney who was then president of the CCAA, called him a "master architect of American education who has made a lasting contribution to American ideals."

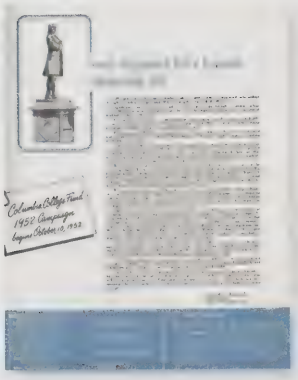
Butler died later that year. His successor, acting president Frank D. Fackenthal CC 1906, became the second Hamilton medal recipient, and the first to be honored with a formal dinner, in January 1948.

The Columbia College Fund

"To provide additional scholarships — to keep Columbia College in the forefront of liberal education — for all!"

Thus was declared the objective for a new annual giving program, the Columbia College Fund, in a solicitation letter sent to alumni in 1951. It was the first time that such an effort had been attempted specifically for the College and its students.

Credit for initiating the fund goes largely to Joseph D. Coffee Jr. '41, the College's director of development — or "Mr. Alumni Affairs," as he came to be known — working in conjunction with Dean Lawrence Cham-



MANNY WARMAN COURTESY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

LEFT: A Columbia College Fund pamphlet celebrated the results of 1951's inaugural drive. **RIGHT:** A view of the Gates from 1968; they had been installed the previous year.

berlain. (The Columbia College Council, an advisory board to the president and trustees, also had a role.) News of its launch, meanwhile, made *The New York Times* that September. Arnold T. Koch CC 1921, LAW 1923 was named general chairman, with a goal of raising $240,000 by the end of the calendar year; the number represented 400 tuition scholarships at $600 each.

"The scholarship program of Columbia College is a vital part of the College's fundamental philosophy," Koch said in the *Times*. "It enables the College to achieve a representative cross-section of young America in its student body and is a sizable contribution to the present nation-wide need of increased scholarship aid."

The 1951 letter, arriving on elegant letterhead in Columbia's traditional blue, opened with some "hard facts." It noted that the percentage of College alumni who participated in giving was then 10 percent, compared with 63 percent participation at Dartmouth, 54 percent at Yale and 50 percent at Princeton. ("Quite a jolt, isn't it, to see Columbia at the bottom of its league!")

Alumni involvement was extensive, as nearly every class from 1895 to 1951 had its own chairman or co-chairmen to marshal classmate giving. In the end, the drive raised nearly $137,000, with 3,395 alumni, parents and friends making contributions, nearly double the number of donors who had given to the College in any previous year.

In a pamphlet sharing the results of the inaugural campaign, Koch wrote a salutatory letter highlighting its successes, in addition to naming the leaders who made it possible. He concluded: "This has been a year of organization and of building. It has been a great pleasure to have participated in the start of [the] Columbia College Fund. Our hope is that each future year will bring greater success. Your satisfaction and mine in this achievement has real meaning when we realize we are constantly sharing in the building of a better Columbia College."

The Gates

In the 1960s, Dell Publishing founder George Delacorte CC 1913 donated $89,000 to construct ornamental gates at either end of College Walk. The pathway through the center of campus, once a trafficked city street, had been left open to Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue when it was added as part of a bicentennial makeover in 1954.

At that time, Delacorte was well on his way to establishing himself as a philanthropist who was more interested in beautification and cultural advancement than in sitting on the board of a museum or hospital. Central Park alone became home to three of his most notable contributions. The *Alice in Wonderland* statue immediately drew the attention of climbing children when it was unveiled in 1959. Three years later, The Delacorte Theater started hosting free Shakespeare performances. And the Delacorte Clock, encircled by its ensemble of animal musicians, began chiming outside the Central Park Zoo in 1965. (As *The New York Times* later observed, for Delacorte, adorning the city was a dream come true.)

The Broadway set of gates was completed in 1967; there had been delays due to an ironworkers' strike, and the dedication ceremony wasn't held until 1971. Notably, the design for the entryway incorporated an earlier set of alumni gifts: the graceful pylons representing Letters and Science. The former was a gift from the Class of 1890; the latter, from the Class of 1900.

"THIS ACHIEVEMENT HAS REAL MEANING WHEN WE REALIZE WE ARE CONSTANTLY SHARING IN THE BUILDING OF A BETTER COLUMBIA COLLEGE."

As iconic as those gates — now the capital-G Gates — have become, they were not entirely well received. *Spectator* pulled no punches, describing them in a December 1967 editorial as ugly and offensive. "Their appearance is undeniably hostile," the editors wrote. "The last thing Columbia needs is more walls, more fences, more barricades."

Thankfully the mood changed, and the Gates are now considered synonymous with Columbia. As is Delacorte: Among other contributions to alma mater, he established the Delacorte Professorship in the Humanities and founded the George T. Delacorte Center for Magazine Journalism. For College students, his name might resonate for a different reason, inscribed as it is above the lion's head fountain outside Hamilton Hall.

THE 2025 LION'S PRIDE HONORS

MEET THIS YEAR'S COHORT OF OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNI

CCT is excited to announce the third installment of Lion's Pride, a celebration of inspiring alumni from the last decade. Our nine honorees are making waves in industries as diverse as architecture, artificial intelligence and cancer research; winning awards for leadership, innovation and humanitarian efforts; and shining in spaces from the White House to the Olympics to the pages of *Vanity Fair*. We hope you'll be as motivated by their successes — and their stories — as we are. As always, we thank Columbia College Young Alumni for its partnership. — *The Editors*

INTERVIEWS AND TEXT BY NATHALIE ALONSO '08, ALEXIS BONCY SOA'11 AND JILL C. SHOMER • ILLUSTRATIONS BY HEATHER GATLEY

Chelsea Miller '18

Christian Flores '22

Zan Gilani '15

Nikola Danev '20

Joshua Foster '16

Cynthia Hajal '16

Nzingha Prescod '15

Max Marshall '16

Kareem Carryl '15

Kareem Carryl '15

From his days at Columbia to his time at Harvard Law and now as a practicing attorney, Kareem Carryl '15 has shown a steadfast commitment to leadership, community-building and equity.

For Carryl, a Brooklyn native and the son of Caribbean immigrants, serving on the Columbia College Student Council (CCSC) was a defining experience. He joined as a sophomore, was elected class representative his junior year and ultimately became senior class president. "[At Columbia], I met many people from backgrounds and walks of life that were incredibly different from my own," Carryl says. "We learned from one another, debated vigorously, and formed amazing relationships."

While on CCSC, Carryl successfully advocated for Dean's List inductees to be formally recognized by the dean. As senior class president, he was also deeply involved in developing programming to celebrate the class. However, Carryl, who attended the College as a member of JPMorganChase's competitive Thomas G. Labrecque Smart Start Scholarship Program, is most proud of working with University administration to subsidize caps and gowns for graduating seniors for whom purchasing regalia was a hardship. "Affordability was an issue that was coming to the fore," recalls Carryl, who received the College's Leonard A. Pullman Memorial Prize and King's Crown Leadership Excellence Awards for Principled Action and Community Building. He adds, "Cost should not be a barrier to celebrating a graduation."

Carryl was also involved with Columbia College Student Ambassadors, an organization that sought to foster connections between current students and

Nzingha Prescod '15

At age 9, two-time Olympic foil fencer Nzingha Prescod '15 began traveling from her Flatlands neighborhood in Brooklyn to Midtown Manhattan to train at the renowned Peter Westbrook Foundation. Looking back, she realizes how fortunate she was to have a mother who could manage those commutes — four to five times a week, no less — noting that geography is one of the barriers that can limit access to her sport. "I always had to leave [my community] to get not only quality sports, but youth development opportunities," she says.

Today, Prescod is working to flip the script. As founder and CEO of the nonprofit Prescod Institute for Sport, Teamwork, and Education, she is opening doors "to the richness of fencing" for Black and Brown youth who might find the sport prohibitively expensive. Prescod founded PISTE in her home borough in 2020, soon after a hip injury prompted her retirement from the sport. Its inaugural program, "Fencing in the Park," introduces young Brooklynites to the sport through informal outdoor lessons during the summer.

PISTE's flagship initiative, however, is its eponymous Fencing Academy, which provides intensive training throughout the school year and supports participants in pursuing the sport competitively. Originally based at a local YMCA, the academy now operates out of a dedicated space in the Starrett City section of East New York, offering nominally priced lessons and equipment and scholarships for families that need assistance. Participants also have access to academic tutoring.

Prescod is fueled by her belief that fencing's benefits go beyond medals and accolades; to her, the life skills and connections she cultivated are just as valuable. "The depth of the impact comes from grinding day in and day out," she says. "That's when you develop leadership skills and character. You develop community. You develop your extended social capital and network. That's the true impact of the sport."

Prescod, who recently gave birth to her first child, a daughter, serves as one of the program's coaches, giving participants the opportunity to learn from a decorated American fencer. In addition to her Olympic appearances, she made history in 2013 as the first U.S. women's foil fencer to claim a Grand Prix title; in 2015, Prescod became the first Black woman to medal individually at the Senior World Championships when she took home the bronze. She ranked as high as fifth in the world and was inducted into the USA Fencing Hall of Fame in 2024. Now Prescod is committed to guiding a new generation. "I'm happy to be a beacon and shepherd other kids who look like me into the sport," she says.

the Columbia College Alumni Association. After becoming an alum, Carryl took his commitment to community with him to Harvard Law, where in his third year he served as president of the Board of Student Advisers, one of Harvard's prestigious honor societies. The BSA mentors first-years and fosters community, along with teaching essential legal writing skills and administering the Ames Moot Court Competition. Significantly, in Carryl's case, it faced the added challenge of helping BSA members and first-years transition back to in-person learning after the Covid-19 pandemic.

Carryl says he joined the BSA because of the crucial support he'd received from the organization. "My BSA showed me the ropes and how to thrive and flourish at Harvard," he says. "I knew that I wanted to replicate that experience for others."

He continues to give back. He is an associate at the law firm Covington & Burling, where he is a member of the Election and Political Law group and advises clients on legal and political matters. During the 2023–24 academic year, Carryl was a lecturer at Harvard Law, where he co-taught the course "Presidential Campaign Lawyering" with Dana Remus, former White House Counsel and general counsel for President Biden's 2020 campaign. He and Remus provided students with an overview of lawyering within the democratic process.

And despite his demanding practice, Carryl prioritizes pro bono work: "We should not reserve good lawyering only for those who can afford it," he says. "Everyone deserves access to good legal representation."

"Everyone deserves access to good legal representation."

Christian Flores '22

Christian Flores '22 is committed to eradicating socioeconomic inequality. It's why he says he spent weeks religiously refreshing the "Work for Us" page on the White House Council of Economic Advisers website. Finally, while riding the subway one Saturday morning, he saw the kind of opportunity he'd been yearning for: a position as special adviser in the Investing in America Cabinet.

By March 2024, Flores was working at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building in D.C. His duties revolved around three legislative initiatives that were part of President Biden's economic agenda — the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the CHIPS and Science Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act.

Raised in Union City, N.J., by Ecuadorian immigrant parents, Flores' values strongly aligned with the agenda's goals. "What this administration put out in terms of centering communities that have been left behind, communities that have seen underinvestment for many years, while trying to emphasize the well-being of workers — those things resonate with me," he says.

His overall mission focused on "tracking indicators of success." As a special adviser, Flores helped prepare speeches, talking points and slide decks for senior staff, including Investing in America Cabinet chief economist Heather Boushey. Flores, who majored in economics and political science at the College, also enjoyed putting his academic training to use, gathering data, performing statistical analyses and identifying trends. "The problems that we're trying to address are truly high stakes, and if I get to play even a small part in that, it's very gratifying," he says.

As an undergraduate Flores interned in the offices of U.S. Rep. José E. Serrano (D-N.Y.) and New York State Sen. Julia Salazar (D-N.Y.). After graduating, he honed his analytical skills as a senior research analyst at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. "There are so many ways to help communities, and I really wanted to see where I could best make an impact," he says.

His time at the White House was influential. "For me, it's about trying to understand how decisions are made, how policy gets implemented; even just something as simple as understanding how a quotation ends up in the newspaper," Flores says.

Seeing up close "the big levers that the government can pull to address structural problems" has solidified Flores' passion: This summer, he'll begin pursuing an M.P.A. at Princeton and a J.D. at Harvard as part of a four-year joint program between the two. His goal? "Learning more about the world before, I hope, returning to a career in public policy," he says.

Cynthia Hajal '16

Can mechanical engineering unlock new possibilities for improving cancer treatments? Cynthia Hajal '16, SEAS'16 certainly thinks so.

As an assistant professor in Northeastern's Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, Hajal leads a team of researchers who are studying how a tumor's microenvironment influences its growth, resistance to drugs and efficacy of drug delivery. They do this by recreating those microenvironments, which are essentially the cells, blood vessels and other molecules that surround and support tumors, using microfluidic models. (Picture a device — less than 3 centimeters in size — that uses tiny channels to control the movement of liquids.) This allows researchers to simulate how drugs interact with cells and determine the most effective methods of delivering drugs directly to the tumor.

Hajal's models combine organ tissue proteins with various types of cells found in healthy tissue. The latter can be selected by researchers to represent specific organs. Then, cancer cells derived from an individual patient's tumor are added to the mix. Hajal believes these models could eventually prove superior to traditional animal testing.

"You can really recreate what you would see in a patient and get a better idea of their response to different treatments," she says.

Hajal is from Lebanon and has been enthralled by cancer biology since high school. She intended to follow a premedical track at the College, but says she quickly realized she "preferred answering the questions using research." She was drawn to the Columbia Combined Plan, which allowed her to concurrently earn a B.A. in economics from the College and a B.S. in mechanical engineering from SEAS. She completed a master's and a Ph.D., both in mechanical engineering, at MIT. It was there that she began working with microfluidic models; she was named to the MIT Rising Star in Mechanical Engineering cohort in 2021.

Hajal, who has held her position since August 2023, is optimistic that her models will also enhance understanding of the interactions between tumor cells and the healthy cells that surround them — an aspect of cancer treatment she believes warrants more attention. She hopes that clinicians will eventually recognize the potential of her research, paving the way for clinical trials in which her models would be used to guide personalized patient care. "Treatment decisions would be determined based on things that we can observe in our studies," Hajal says. "That would be very exciting."

Joshua Foster '16

Joshua Foster '16 is ensuring that buildings reflect the needs of the communities they serve.

As the founder of the Los Angeles-based consulting firm JAF Creative Solutions, Foster collaborates with architecture and design firms, real estate developers, construction companies and nonprofits to involve neighborhoods directly in their projects — especially in areas where people of color have been historically marginalized.

Foster's "non-traditional" career path began at KFA Architecture, where he contributed to housing developments across L.A. While working through the design and construction phases, Foster sensed a critical gap. He felt that developers and architects too often dismissed local organizers and advocates simply because they lacked the industry-specific terminology or technical knowledge to express their ideas. Foster asked himself whether he could serve as a bridge. "It comes down to caring and maximizing the culture and the talent that communities possess," he says.

His inspiration ultimately took an entrepreneurial approach; Foster opened his firm in 2021. It currently has four employees and two interns. The primary goal, he says, is to connect communities with resources that are often missing. "We may realize that the community doesn't have a space where nonprofits can gather, and so there might be ways we can leverage a community room that's part of the building," Foster says. "It could be, say, adding a [public] park to an office building."

JAF Creative Solutions has contributed to various projects in Southern California, such as the Watts Community Center and the Amazing Grace Conservatory. The firm also served as the management and design arm for a virtual museum created by Our Genetic Legacy, a nonprofit dedicated to preserving the histories of BIPOC communities.

For Foster, the project, We The People Museum, represented a move toward exploring possibilities beyond physical structures. "For communities that might not be able to build what they want and need physically, how can we use technology?" he says.

Foster is also an adjunct professor of architecture at East Los Angeles College and Long Beach City College, and the national historian for the National Organization of Minority Architects. His work earned him the 2023 Robert Kennard, FAIA-Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Award from the American Institute of Architects' L.A. chapter, and he was a 2024 Building Design+Construction "40 Under 40" honoree.

A Philadelphia native, Foster developed an early interest in architecture; his passion solidified during high school, when he traveled in Europe as part of the People to People Student Ambassador Program. He says he chose the College for the opportunity to pursue architecture while playing football, and went on to earn a master's in architecture at the University of Southern California. The connections he's formed along the way, he says, have been key to his success. "Building those relationships, especially when I moved to Los Angeles, allowed me to understand how different communities have different needs," he says.

"For communities that might not be able to build what they need physically, how can we use technology?"

Max Marshall '16

Writer and journalist Max Marshall '16 fell into crime reporting by accident.

Marshall was living in Hanoi postgraduation as part of a Princeton in Asia journalism fellowship, and made his first big magazine pitch to *GQ* — to profile the young film director Jordan Vogt-Roberts, who'd recently made the blockbuster *Kong: Skull Island* and was living in Ho Chi Min City.

The two men met for an interview at a nightclub. Then a month before the story was to run, Vogt-Roberts was brutally assaulted, randomly, by 12 men with ties to international organized crime. Local police warned Vogt-Roberts not to look into it, so he reached out to Marshall: Would he help him solve the case?

Marshall detailed months of "playing full-on Hardy Boys" and the criminals' eventual arrests in his riveting 2018 *GQ* feature, "Attack on Skull Island." He had also made an interesting discovery. "I realized that crime reporting can be a very effective Trojan horse to write about all sorts of other things," Marshall says.

What he wanted to write about was the rise of Xanax in the fraternity world. Marshall, who grew up in Dallas, had initially become curious when his high school friends described widespread availability and abuse of the drug at their colleges. Looking for a hook, Marshall googled "Xanax arrest fraternity"; the first result was a 2016 press release about Kappa Alpha brothers at the College of Charleston who had been caught with 40,000 Xanax pills. The story also alluded to a connection with a student homicide. Marshall got a defense lawyer on the phone, who let it slip that the unreported number of pills was closer to 3 million. "That's when I knew there was something bigger there," Marshall says.

Five years, hundreds of interviews, and thousands of police reports and court documents later, the result was *Among The Bros: A Fraternity Crime Story,* which was released to acclaim in late 2023. *The New York Times* called it "a page-turning triumph"; *Vanity Fair* published an excerpt. The juicy story traces the journey of several KAs from pledges to interstate drug traffickers — "hubris, status, money, drugs, murder" — with Marshall as a winning first-person narrator.

Throughout the book, Marshall, who graduated from the College summa cum laude, grounds his reporting with parallels to his own (not felonious!) experience at Columbia's Delta Sigma Phi fraternity; in conversation, he also credits an influential class, "Traditions in Nonfiction," with School of the Arts professor Mark Rozzo, for not only demonstrating that style of writing as an art form, but "making it seem doable," Marshall says.

Recently, he has been at work on a second book for HarperCollins as well as collaborating on a documentary about youth cattle competitions in Texas. He's also finishing up the screenplay for *Among the Bros* for Sony Pictures, and is enjoying the different mechanics of that medium: "I love the way the characters talk in this world, the vernacular of this southern Greek life," Marshall says. "It's a great sandbox to play around in."

Zan Gilani '15

Over the past decade Zan Gilani '15 has emerged as an innovative force at Duolingo, helping to transform the language-learning app from a small education startup to a thriving company with millions of users worldwide. As a principal product manager, Gilani has been harnessing the power of generative AI, most recently introducing Video Call, a feature that allows users to practice speaking with "Lily" — a virtual teenager with purple hair and a signature deadpan expression.

The feature, Gilani says, addresses a common challenge for Duolingo's nearly 113 million monthly users: the fact that many of them lack access to native speakers for practice, and often feel intimidated when speaking with someone who is fluent. "We had to figure out a way to give you the practice, give you the actual skill, let you exercise the muscle, but also do it in a way that's accessible and approachable," Gilani says.

Gilani's fascination with languages, as well as with behavioral psychology, influences his product choices. Lily, a preexisting Duolingo character, is designed to have broad appeal and come across with as much human relatability as possible. "She has her own motivations. She's not always impressed with you, and sometimes she's going to be sassy," Gilani says with a laugh. "That's all going to make for a much more

Chelsea Miller '18

Ask Chelsea Miller '18 to name one of the most important lessons she's learned as an activist, and she doesn't hesitate: "You don't have to wait for permission [to get involved]."

Miller knows whereof she speaks. On May 31, 2020 — six days after George Floyd's murder ignited what would become one of the largest social movements in U.S. history — she and Nialah Edari BC'17 launched Freedom March NYC. Miller had joined a protest outside Brooklyn's Barclays Center the day before and noticed a lack of cohesion on the front lines. Between that and the aggressive police response, "the message was getting lost," she says.

She and Edari took matters into their own hands, and by the next evening, they had gathered several hundred protesters together at Washington Square Park to march peacefully to One Police Plaza. That summer, the pair went on to raise more than $50,000 and organize additional protests, solidifying Freedom March as one of the largest youth-led civil rights organizations in New York. For her efforts, Miller received a Muhammad Ali Humanitarian Award in 2021.

"We weren't looking to create something," Miller says. "I think something was created *in us,* and that is because of what we witnessed [in Floyd's death]. I felt like it was my duty to show up."

Today, Miller has broadened her reach. She still advocates for her causes, which she describes broadly as Black youth futures, from advancing economic justice and educational opportunity, to combating mass incarceration and gun violence. But she is equally clear that she wants to use her voice in other ways. "A lot of the work I do now is helping other young people unlock their potential and hone their leadership skills," she says.

In 2023, she publicly launched CPM Global, which creates media and social impact campaigns for sports, education, fashion, philanthropy and other industries. (Past partners and clients include Nike, Versace, *Essence* and Tufts University.) Miller travels worldwide as a public speaker and lately has focused on documenting stories from the 1960s' Civil Rights Movement. ("If you don't learn from the past, then you can't really visualize how to build a better future," she says.)

Miller has a keen sense of the influence of her own history. A first-generation Jamaican American, she was raised in Brooklyn by a single mom who was a social worker and who at one point turned their first floor into a group home for young girls. "That experience taught me that there are so many invisible [forces] that exist in our country that shape the lives of so many people," Miller says.

She acknowledges there are times when motivation is hard to find. Asked how she stays inspired, she paraphrases from a recent interview she did with Civil Rights veteran Larry Rubin. "It was one of the most profound things I'd heard in a long time," Miller says. "He said, 'You get your people, you stick together and you lose together — until one day you win.'"

engaging experience. And if we can have you engaged, you are more likely to come back."

Gilani joined Duolingo's marketing team shortly after graduation, eventually moving to the department where he really wanted to be: product management. "It seemed more fulfilling to build the product itself, to create the features and functionality," he says.

He describes his current role as "interdisciplinary"; one moment he might be analyzing data and pondering high-level strategies about which products to launch, and the next he might be in the weeds, working with the engineers who write the code and with the app's designers to fine-tune details. That involves being in contact with the app's users and listening to their feedback.

Gilani grew up speaking both Urdu and English in his hometown of Karachi, Pakistan. He studied Chinese at the College and spent a summer in Beijing, immersing himself in the language. Having traveled great distances to further his own education, at Duolingo he is driven by the knowledge that many users are learning English to open the door to better job prospects and life-changing opportunities. "It's very rewarding to work on the cutting edge of technology," he says. "And it's very rewarding to do this in service of education."

"If we can have you engaged, you are more likely to come back."

Nikola Danev '20

When Nikola Danev '20 first suited up for New York's Varna Volunteer Fire Company (VVFC) in 2021, its membership was low and leadership depleted. The Upstate outfit was at risk of shutting down — which would have left some 3,500 people in a 16.7-square-mile rural area without their primary emergency responders. At the time, Danev was a doctoral student researching bovine genetics at Cornell's Baker Institute for Animal Health. He was recruited by a member of his lab, Mason Jager.

Danev joined as an EMT but quickly rose to deputy chief. After taking "every class you could think of for firefighters," he set out to rebuild the company and ensure it could continue operating, all while helping to extinguish some very real fires.

Alongside Jager, who became chief, Danev turned the firehouse into a space that would foster community and encourage fellow Cornell students to volunteer. That meant raising funds for amenities like exercise equipment, a video game console and streaming subscriptions. Jager and Danev also created a study room and installed a fire pit — Danev's idea. Within three years, VVFC had grown from 7 to 80 volunteers. "Once you build community, people stay for community," Danev says.

VVFC is now thriving: In November 2023, it was named Fire Department of the Year by the Tompkins County Department of Emergency Response. It also received the 2024 Innovation Award for Organizational Innovation in the field of Emergency Medical Services from the New York State Department of Health.

A native of Skopje, Macedonia, Danev attended the College as a John Jay Scholar. He decided to volunteer with VVFC to step out of the Ivy League bubble — the same reason that as an undergraduate he joined the Columbia University Emergency Medical Services, the student-operated volunteer ambulance corps that serves Morningside Heights. He became a New York State-certified EMT and eventually CUEMS director. "Responding to calls exposed me to the folks we live with and everyone who surrounds us," Danev says.

Danev intended to pursue a premedical track and saw CUEMS as an opportunity to gain experience providing patient care. By his junior year, however, he realized his passion was research. After rotating through various labs in his first years at Cornell, Danev joined one that allowed him to work with a pharmaceutical company to develop a treatment for mastitis, a common bovine udder infection. "It was a project that felt more tangible than basic research," says Danev, who recently completed a Ph.D. focused on genetic research for mastitis treatments. He has since accepted a position with the Boston Consulting Group in Washington, D.C.

Though he is saying goodbye to VVFC, Danev is confident about its future. "This [fire] department that was on the verge of shutting down is constantly growing and developing, and I know it will survive without me," he says.

A Closer Listen

Ben Ratliff '90 forms new connections to music while on the move

Five years ago, **Ben Ratliff '90** started thinking about new ways to write about music. He had been the jazz and pop critic for *The New York Times* for two decades (1996–2016) and authored four books, including a deep dive into John Coltrane that was a finalist for a National Book Critics Circle Award. Then, in 2020, Ratliff made a discovery while on solitary runs through the pandemic-emptied streets of the Bronx and Upper Manhattan.

"I found I was listening better than I ever had; I was able to access the inside of the music in a way I wasn't normally able to," he says. "I didn't understand the connection to running, so I thought: 'I'll just have to start writing about it.' I wanted to somehow describe the music I was listening to, but also explain the path that I had just taken and the physical experience I had had."

The result, *Run the Song: Writing About Running About Listening* (Graywolf Press, $18), describes how running — significantly, during an unusual and unsettling time in the world — allowed Ratliff to think and write differently about music. On the move, encountering newly erected fences for an intended FEMA field hospital and demonstrations against racial violence, Ratliff became open to "rerouting his concentration," and ultimately connected to his area of expertise in a new way.

"Music has motion ... for me, it almost *is* motion," he writes. "Running amplifies the motion in music. It took me a long time to understand this."

Ratliff's encyclopedic musical knowledge (he was a substitute DJ at WKCR before becoming the station's program director) allows for a sweeping range of reflections. He makes associations between disparate artists like Jimi Hendrix and Indian singer M.S. Subbulakshmi, based on "their alertness in bending notes as they move forward," as he's moving forward with them. Running through Yonkers, he considers its famous residents Ella Fitzgerald and DMX: "[T]hey knew the same land, the same topography and weather and wind."

Ratliff acknowledges that *Run the Song* is a departure in style for him — a kind of meditative writing he says he wouldn't have been able to do in his professional life as a critic. "I wrote a lot of it in a huge burst," he says. "But then the quality changed, became more serious and

GUS ARONSON

a little less chaotic, once I realized what this book was going to be."

What it is *not,* Ratliff clarifies, is a "running book." He doesn't train or track his speed or distance ("the last thing I want to do is turn this thing I love into data"), nor does he choose songs or playlists based on their pacing. Ironically, Ratliff doesn't care too much about tempo, as long as there's enough energy to keep him going. "It was important to discover that you can run to very, very slow music, and that it can be really clarifying," he says.

Graywolf editor Ethan Nosowsky '89, whom Ratliff met during his freshman year at the College, helped

him keep *Run the Song*'s beat. "I had written this strange book, and my agent thought of Ethan as a great potential reader," Ratliff says. It was the first time they collaborated, and Ratliff found the experience to be extremely gratifying. "It's such a pleasure to be read by someone insightful, who understands the thing you are trying to do," he says.

In this excerpt, Ratfliff, who also teaches writing and cultural criticism at NYU's Gallatin School of Individualized Study, considers how running and listening can illuminate each other; on a jog through the North Bronx, he connects the circles he interprets in the strings from Russian composer Sofia Gubaidulina to the oval he's making around the Jerome Park Reservoir.

Asked how he decides what to play when he's out, Ratliff says he tries to be spontaneous and enjoys cueing up less familiar tunes. He says not knowing how long a song will last or how it will end mirrors the state of mind he likes to embody as a runner. "I never have a fixed route," he says. "To me, that's what the promise of running is about. You can make choices as you go along. You can improvise."

— Jill C. Shomer

I begin listening to Sofia Gubaidulina's first string quartet, and notice first a trembling drone and then a lot of glissandi played apart and together in contrary motion, which taken together suggests circles, and which I interpret as circular motions pushing toward stark and unfamiliar places.

So without really thinking about it, I do something analogous to what the music does. I run down a hill into Kingsbridge, greeting the astonishing light, moving toward the light of the high, glassy, clustered chords, and then up a hill, crossing the valley of Broadway and going directly east as far as I can go: 200 feet down to sea level and 200 feet up again. I bump into the Jerome Park Reservoir, which is closed, but you can run around the whole thing on the empty streets, past ballfields and medical tents. A rough and giant circle to the other side, where the schools are, Bronx Science and Lehman College, curving back around on Sedgwick — alternating apartment blocks and free-standing houses with steps up to the front doors. Then back toward our neighborhood, via the Van Cortlandt stadium, where I trace a couple more circles on the track.

As I run, the music I'm listening to presumes a setting, and the setting presumes a music, as if my feet were drawing the music in the physical world. In doing so, I allow the physical world to become more vivid. Running-while-listening through any atmosphere — say, the ten-mile radius around our apartment building in the northwest Bronx — helps me to understand and discern the way that music operates in time and place. Running the Bronx and Yonkers and upper Manhattan has disclosed the city to me as far more than "streets": it is hills, dales, and curves, canting and terraced rock, marshes, forest, highways, streams, bridges, ripped wire fences, places of worship and burial, blocked paths and invitations to connect interrupted planes. Likewise, running with music has disclosed music to me as more than the givens of notes, style, genres. Running and listening can illuminate each other: you remain aware of your current position, while thinking about where you're heading and where you've been. It could be possible to write about running with the vocabulary of listening, and listening with the vocabulary of running. You might start with the word "track." The word comes from middle English and middle French, "trek" and "trac." It meant evidence of motion in the past, like a footprint, but then it came to mean a suggestion for motion in the future — a way forward.

Music has motion. It has other things too, but for me, it almost *is* motion. No motion, no music. The motion could be expressed through a rhythm, steady or varied, or through the connection of one tone to the next, or as

EYEEM MOBILE GMBH / GETTY IMAGES

the progression of a single tone into silence, or simply by the way music comes to you, as traveling sound waves moving through the air and the body. Running amplifies the motion in music. It took me a long time to understand this. Running while listening can be somewhat related to singing or playing along to music, but with a particular emphasis on moving, as all music does, as all music must do.

Music is difficult to write about, for the simple reason that it must always be caught up with. Music moves from here to there; it is running away from us. The fact that it runs away from us is a source of joy but also displeasure: a song can drive you crazy, or beguile you, or perplex you, or threaten you. For this reason, many ignore its motion, and prefer to understand it as if it were a finite historical event, which has to mean something.

Music runs away from us. Gubaidulina's does, manifestly. Half an hour in, with the third string quartet, I still don't know where it's going. The strings are prodding me, coming at me with invisible fingers — the fingers of the musicians, playing the pizzicato first half, gathering into masses and then dispersing. In the fourth string quartet, live strings are set against prerecorded sounds of a ghost quartet bouncing rubber balls against the strings, producing the effect of a quickly retreating echo. The string sounds and the musicians themselves are there and not there. What do we do with this music? We can *chase* it, but a chase implies that we want to capture it, like a hunter chasing an animal, or want to know where it is going, like an officer chasing a suspect. I'm not sure that's the best response. We can also run roughly alongside it, allowing for it to move in any direction. We can listen to the song, dance to the song, collect the song, study the song, live by or represent the song. There is also always the option of running the song.

I don't mean letting the music guide you toward the fantasy that you *are* a particular musician, as if it were possible to borrow the self of Playboi Carti or Martha Argerich for an hour, though these may be nice fantasies. I am also not talking about accepting the music as encouragement for running at a certain tempo, or for adhering to an exercise program. Most of the small amount of writing I have found about running-and-listening is about kinesiology and optimal physical performance — about music chosen mostly to set a pace, to fulfill a precept about motivation. I mean engaging with the music's forward patterns, its implications, its potential, its intention, and even its desire.

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I see that if I go a little further east next time, I will reach another WPA circle, the Williamsbridge Oval, near Gun Hill Road. I can think of a lot more music with circles in it, too.

I'm aware that by doing what I'm doing, and in this particular case, I may be ignoring the "meaning" of the composer's music, if Gubaidulina would say that its meaning is something to do with spirituality or the subconscious, though I don't know exactly what she would say. And whatever I did with the music today was not exactly musicology. But I wonder if I'm getting close to it nevertheless.

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alumni news

CAMPUS COLD SNAP

A light dusting of January snow shawls *Alma Mater* in white.

JILL SHOMER

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Costume designer Leah Katznelson '02 discusses her Emmy Award-winning work on *Feud: Capote Vs. the Swans*.

Creating Opportunities in Pivotal Times

By Sherri Pancer Wolf '90

As I reflect on my term as president of the Columbia College Alumni Association (CCAA), one thing was certain: change. We navigated transitions in leadership across the University, welcoming two University presidents, a new College dean and fresh leadership in the Alumni Office. The College also made the difficult decision to sunset the Alumni Representative Committee, yet we embraced new and exciting ways to engage alumni globally.

Emerging from the shadow of the Covid-19 pandemic, Columbia found itself at the center of campus protests that sparked significant dialogue and debate. Through countless conversations with alumni, I was reminded of the breadth of opinions within our community and the strength that lies in our diversity of thought. Leading the CCAA during such pivotal times allowed us to create new opportunities to connect with students, faculty and alumni, in ways that were both challenging and deeply rewarding.

The CCAA itself also evolved, with new committees, refined processes and innovative programming. I am particularly proud of several key initiatives that we introduced:

- **Intellectual Programming Committee:** This committee is broadening opportunities for alumni to engage with Columbia's remarkable intellectual community and esteemed faculty. In October, we launched our inaugural program Big Topics, Short Takes, with a three-session virtual series on civil disobedience featuring faculty experts in this critical area. This series marked the beginning of our efforts to create dynamic, thought-provoking content that connects alumni to the intellectual heart of the University.

- **Campus Solidarity Task Force:** Formed in response to the events of Oct. 7, 2023, this task force addressed the concerns raised by campus tensions. For the first time, we collaborated with the alumni members of the Columbia University Senate, strengthening alumni engagement in governance. We also expanded the Alumni-Hosted Dinners program, offering increased support and connection to students during challenging times. In addition, our virtual AlumniTALK series was broadened to feature in-depth interviews by distinguished alumni journalists, who engaged faculty and administrators to offer critical perspectives on Columbia's navigation of these tense issues. The first two sessions featured a conversation with Columbia's Task Force on Anti-Semitism co-leader Professor David Schizer, and an interview with Core Curriculum Director Larry Jackson.

- **Diversity & Governance Working Group:** This group played a pivotal role in enhancing the inclusivity of our nominations process, ensuring that the CCAA Board of Directors and its programming better reflect the diversity of our alumni community. By developing more inclusive nomination practices, we successfully brought in board members who represent a broader spectrum of alumni experiences and identities, enriching the leadership and perspectives within the CCAA.

EILEEN BARROSO

The CCAA Board of Directors, Dean Josef Sorett and Alumni Office staff met before the Homecoming game on Oct. 26.

As my term comes to an end, I am thrilled to pass the torch to Raymond Yu '89, SEAS'90, a longtime board member and a recipient of a 2023 John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement. Raymond has been a steadfast leader on the CCAA Executive Committee since 2018, most recently serving as VP of development. His dedication to Columbia is reflected in his roles as co-chair of the Columbia College Fund, chair of the Fund Development Council and co-chair of the Parent Leadership Council. Together with his wife, Amy, Raymond is the proud parent of a current College student and two College alumni.

Raymond's professional journey has been as impressive as his Columbia one. As president of Yuco Real Estate Company and Yuco Management, he has played a vital role in shaping New York City's landscape through the development and management of commercial and residential properties. His influence extends beyond Columbia, serving as vice-chair of the Board of Directors of the YMCA of Greater New York, and as a founding board member of the NoHo Business Improvement District and an advisory board member of the New York Housing Conference.

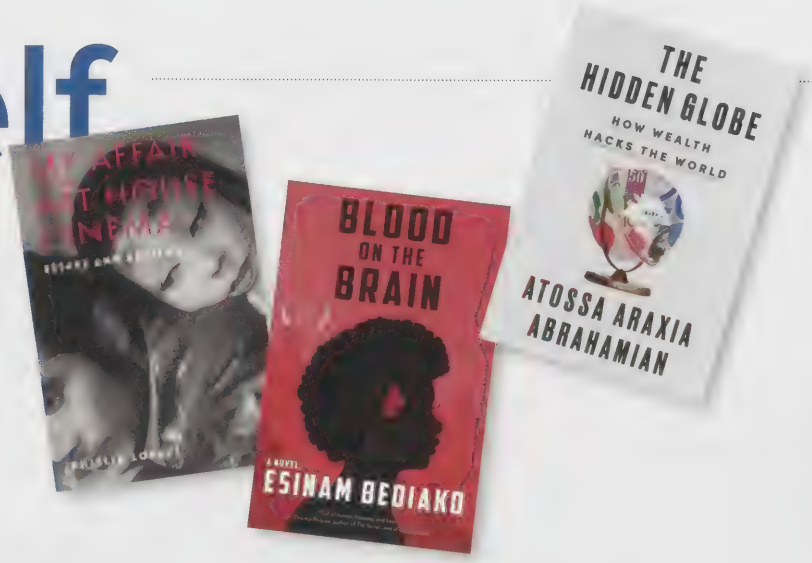
Serving as CCAA president these last two years has been one of the greatest honors of my life. I am so proud to be an ambassador and alumni leader for "the greatest college in the greatest university in the greatest city in the world." I am grateful for the deep friendships I have made on the CCAA board and for all of the incredible alumni and faculty I have had the privilege to meet and learn from.

As Socrates wisely said, "The secret of change is to focus all your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new." I am excited to see how the CCAA will continue to evolve under Raymond's leadership, and I look forward to the new year with hope and anticipation.

Roar, Lion, Roar!

Sherri Wolf

bookshelf



A Philatelic Economic and Business History of the United States *by Joseph Giacalone '60.* The story of U.S. economic development as told through its postage stamps dating back to 1847; more than 200 stamp images are included (LeanPub, $15).

My Affair with Art House Cinema *by Phillip Lopate '64.* A collection of essays and reviews from the last 25 years, inspired by Lopate's passion for art house classics such as David Lynch's *Mulholland Drive* and Andrei Tarkovsky's *Solaris* (Columbia University Press, $26).

Find Me *by Bruce F. Kawin '67.* The first book of fiction from Kawin, professor emeritus of English at the University of Colorado Boulder, features eight tales that range in length from two pages to a novella (PB&J Books $16).

The 12-Hour Film Expert: Everything You Need to Know About Movies *by Dr. James Charney '68 and Noah Charney.* The Charneys, father and son, tell readers how films are made and how to watch them in a more thoughtful way (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, $34).

Peasant Politics of the Twenty-First Century: Transnational Social Movements and Agrarian Change *by Marc Edelman '75.* Edelman details the movements that are remaking rural society and the world's food and agriculture systems (Cornell University Press, $36.95).

A Surgeon's Memoir: 40 Years at the County *by Dr. Stewart Lazow '75.* The author's journey to becoming a professor, oral and maxillofacial surgery residency program director and director of service at Brooklyn's Kings County Hospital Center (Koehler Books $25.95).

Rented Grave: An Inspector Lok Novel *by Charles Philipp Martin '76.* Martin's latest crime story takes place in Hong Kong's teeming Yau Ma Tei district, where a body is found in a gangster's limousine (Level Best Books, $16.95).

Rabbis of the Garden State *by Daniel Meltz '78.* In Meltz's debut novel, a portrayal of suburban Jewish life in the 1960s, 11-year-old Andy's mother develops a bizarre obsession with their local rabbi (Rattling Good Yarns Press, Kindle edition, $9.99).

The Council of Wise Women *by Mark Binder '84.* Written under the pen name Izzy Abrahmson, Binder's latest in the Village Life series is a playful story about a secret society of women in the folkloric Jewish community of Chelm (Light Publications, $29.99).

One Last Word: A Novel *by Suzanne Park '97.* In this contemporary romantic comedy, mistaken-identity calamity ensues after a tech entrepreneur creates an app that sends messages to your loved ones after your death (Avon, $18.99).

The Trials of Madame Restell: Nineteenth-Century America's Most Infamous Female Physician and the Campaign to Make Abortion a Crime *by Nicholas L. Syrett '97.* A biography of Restell, a 19th-century New Yorker whose name became a national synonym for abortion (The New Press, $29.99).

Hunger for Righteousness: A Lenten Journey Towards Intimacy with God and Loving Our Neighbor *by Phoebe Farag Mikhail '00.* Stories of modern and ancient Christian heroes to help readers prepare for and participate in the spiritual practices of Lent (Paraclete Press, $18.99).

Blood on the Brain *by Esinam Bediako '05.* After a head injury, a young woman struggles to navigate her Ghanaian-American identity, her relationships, and a muddled landscape of memory, history and delusion (Red Hen Press, $18.95).

Critique of Halakhic Reason: Divine Commandments and Social Normativity *by Yonatan Y. Brafman '07.* Brafman assesses modern Jewish thinking and uncovers diverse reasoning behind the commandments given within Jewish law and philosophy (Oxford University Press, $88.36).

The Hidden Globe: How Wealth Hacks the World *by Atossa Araxia Abrahamian '08.* A new map of the world drawn with money: Abrahamian reports on the thousands of extraterritorial zones that benefit the wealthiest individuals and corporations (Riverhead Books, $30).

Ordering the Human: The Global Spread of Racial Science *co-edited by Natalie Shibley '12.* This collection of essays investigates the influence of racial concepts in scientific knowledge production across regions and eras (Columbia University Press, $35).

—Jill C. Shomer

SUBMIT YOUR BOOK TO *CCT*

Alums! Have you written a book in the last year? Tell us about it!

college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_bookshelf

classnotes

EILEEN BARROSO

Roar-ee struck a pose with some enthusiastic Lions fans at Homecoming on Oct. 26.

1954

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Thank you to the following alumni, who responded to our call for updates.

We start with notes from three Larrys: "It was sad to see no entry from the Class of '54 [in the Fall 2024 issue]. So, we thought we would provide some info from the old folks, now in their 90s. The three Larry dorm roommates continue to meet on Zoom about every six weeks with alumni from other nearby classes and would be happy to include any who wish to be invited.

"**Larry Kobrin** has retired from the practice of law and still lives in Manhattan with his wife, Ruth. He continues involvement in a variety of philanthropic activities and says, 'While I have nothing to do, I seem to have no time to do it.' His present Columbia connections are through his daughter Rebecca Kobrin, the Russell and Bettina Knapp Associate Professor of American Jewish History and co-director of the Institute for Jewish Studies at Columbia, and a granddaughter who is a sophomore at Barnard.

"Dr. **Larry Gartner**, having lost his wife, Carol, lives in the Pauma Valley Country Club in California, after selling his ranch in Valley Center. He is mostly retired from the practice of medicine but occasionally consults on various medical projects, particularly those involving neonates, breastfeeding and pediatric history.

Class Notes are collected by alumni and edited by volunteer class correspondents and the staff of CCT, a unit of the College of the University. By submitting to Class Notes, you acknowledge that the text is eligible to appear in print as well as on CCT online and in archives.

"Dr. **Larry Scharer** lives with his wife, Linda, on the Upper East Side. While he has retired from the clinical practice of medicine, he consults on medical matters to various city agencies."

James Hays writes, "Recently celebrated my 91st birthday in independent living at Brookdale Santa Catalina in Tucson. My wife of 65 years, Diane, died in 2023. My health is generally good, but I no longer travel."

From Dr. **Henry Buchwald** VPS'57: "My wife, Emilie, and I are privileged to remain active as well as enjoy our growing family. We live in our home in Minnesota, except for winters in Palm Springs, Calif. Emilie is publisher and editor-in-chief of The Gryphon Press, dedicated to children's picture books with a humanitarian message. I write a medical column and stay involved in academic metabolic surgery meetings and webinars. I published a book in 2022, *Healthcare Upside Down: A Critical Examination of Policy and Practice.* On a more general note, I am distressed at the overt and covert antisemitism on campus. Are we going backward in time?"

Please send *CCT* your news by email or by using the online webform college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Classmates would enjoy hearing from you!

1955

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Thank you to the following alumni, who responded to our call for updates.

Gordon Silverman writes, "This is not a 'note,' but when I received notice of this year's Columbia Reunion [Thursday–Saturday, May 29–31], it dawned on me that it will be 70 years. The last reunion I attended was the 50th. (I've been to some Homecoming games, though.) I'm thinking seriously about making a try for the 70th. At 90 you never know."

Dr. **Ross F. Grumet** notes, "I am busy practicing psychiatry in Atlanta. I believe what I do is more fun than what I might do if I stopped seeing patients, but keeping an open mind. A Columbia memory popped back when I saw a reference to F.W. Dupee (in the book *At the Existentialist Café: Freedom, Being, and Apricot Cocktails,* by Sarah Bakewell). I had chosen a course on writing poetry and Dupee met with me alone over coffee every week for an hour. We talked about my poems, Eliot, Proust and whatever seemed relevant. Just one of many unforgettable experiences that Columbia gave me."

Writing in October, Dr. **Allen Hyman** tells us, "Stockbridge, Mass., in the fall is beautiful."

Warren Cohen brings to our attention the Oct. 29, 2024, passing of **Stanley B. Lubman** LAW'70: "I read Stan's obit in *The New York Times* and spent that morning recalling the crazy times we had together as undergraduates, including carrying him — plastered — out of the Yale Bowl in 1954, with police in pursuit. We met again in Hong Kong in summer 1965 when we discovered we had both ended up in Chinese studies, me as an historian of Chinese-American relations and Stan as the leading specialist on Chinese law. Our work in China brought us together occasionally and I was grateful for a chance to see him in Washington, D.C., a few years ago when he was already suffering from Parkinson's. He probably had the sharpest mind I ever encountered."

Read more about Stanley in "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct, or online in the *Times* (bit.ly/3B6syDs).

Please send *CCT* your news by email or by using the online webform college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Classmates would enjoy learning what you have been up to and how you are.

1956

Robert Siroty
rsiroty@gmail.com

Lewis Segal writes from Manchester, Conn., that he recently retired from his law practice, leaving behind more than 100 "esteemed" partners. During his later years in the practice, Lewis wrote three novels, the first of which, *The Infielders,* was published in June.

Philip Liebson writes from Wilmette, Ill., "My wife, Carole, died in December 2023. I am busy writing another essay for The Chicago Literary Club on 'Reflection on the Middle Ages.' My interest in the Medieval period allows me perspectives on what is going on now. My best to classmates. Would enjoy hearing from them."

Please note my new email address, at the top of the column.

1957

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Thank you to the following alumni, who responded to our call for updates.

Martin Brothers, who lives in Salem, N.Y., writes, "I believe we should acknowledge the tenure and resignation of Minouche Shafik as a seminal event for the University, one that calls for alumni to consider the advisability and viability of the Kalven policy of institutional neutrality, especially in view of continuing demands by organized student protesters for divestment or further harassment of any resisting University president. A corollary issue is whether the purpose of divestment as a means of effectuating changes in policy could work for Israel given that Hamas is unappeasable and will not coexist in peace with Israel on any terms whatsoever, regardless of its policies. Hamas, no less than the fanatics in Netanyahu's cabinet, aspires to rule from the river to the sea.

"One starting point for such a conversation might be the provocative essay by Peter W. Wood, 'The Illusion of Institutional Neutrality,' where he critiques the report of the committee chaired by Harry Kalven Jr. (now deceased), long regarded as best academic policy.

"If enough of us who remain in the Class of '57 are interested in this conversation, feel free to email me at mlbrothers@optonline.net."

Robert Alter, living in Berkeley, Calif., writes, "Deep in retirement, I am still busy writing. I recently completed the manuscript of a book on the anticipation of novelistic dialogue in biblical narrative and am working on a book about the language of fiction."

Also, in California, in this case Los Angeles, **Richard Berger** tell us, "Still hanging in! Reasonably good health considering my age. Never married. Follow Columbia and the on-campus 'activities' via *Spectator,* and watch as many football and basketball games that are on ESPN and the like."

Submit a Class Note or Photo

CCT welcomes news, updates and photos from Columbia College alumni.

SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE

- If your class has a correspondent, email them at the address at the top of your column.
- If CCT handles your class, email **cct@columbia.edu** (please indicate your class year).
- All classes may submit using the online webform **college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.**

SUBMIT A PHOTO

- Photos must feature at least two College alumni for Class Notes, and one for Just Married, as long as the alum is a member of the couple.
- All photos must be submitted using the online webform **college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.**
- Photos that do not meet the size parameters for print will run online.

On the East Coast is **Robert Lipsyte**, who lives on Shelter Island, N.Y., with his wife, Lois Morris. He writes, "Missing the city but still chained to the computer. My 13th young adult novel (for readers 14 and up), *Rhino's Run,* was described by its publisher, HarperCollins, as *'The Breakfast Club* meets *Friday Night Lights.'"*

The Midwest rounds out the column, with news from **Mac Gimse**, in Dundas, Minn.: "As a member of the Columbia Blue Key Society 1955–57, I remember being helpful around campus by hosting visitors and sponsoring social events. It felt like an honor to be involved. Today I'm included as an honorary Blue Keyer at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn., where I began teaching in 1970. Thirty students, in this college of 3,200, are today helpful in the campus scene in creative ways. I'm invited several times a year to join them. Thank you, Columbia, for this far-reaching heritage."

Mac shared a poem as well:

The Fire of Earth Lives On

the
newest
fire of earth
means no harm
floods uncontested
droughts uncalculated
quakes not a vengeance
blizzards forever drifting
hurricanes always uninvited
tornadoes without guiding
warring between peoples
not a concern of nature
ah life be green again
while you and I are
breathing daily
and hoping
freshly
still.

Please send *CCT* your news by email or by using the online webform college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Classmates would enjoy hearing from you!

1958

Peter Cohn
petercohn1939@gmail.com

By the time you read this column you will know whether the Columbia football team (with its young coach, Jon Poppe) was a serious contender for the Ivy League title in 2024. But whether or not this occurs, I am pleased to report that **Ernie Brod** and I spent a perfectly delightful afternoon at Robert K. Kraft Field on Oct. 5 watching our Lions destroy Princeton's Tigers 34–17, the first time we defeated our least favorite foe at home since 2010.

On a much sadder note, we report the death of beloved classmate **Ira S. Carlin** LAW'64 on May 15, 2024. Both **Carl Frischling** LAW'62, BUS'63 and **Arthur Freeman** BUS'61 sent in their thoughts at his passing.

Carl wrote: "Ira lived in California since his College and Law School days. I stayed in touch with him all these years (almost 70) and Ira attended most, if not all, of our reunions despite his West Coast residence. I, and others, lost a good friend and classmate."

Arthur wrote: "My dear friend Ira was a sole practitioner, initially in Los Angeles and then, until a few years ago, in the Northern San Diego area. He was a member of the Naval ROTC program at Columbia and proudly served in the Navy after graduation. Ira had many interests, but notably he and his wife, Jane, were important collectors of American art of the 1920s and 1930s. In addition to his wife, Ira leaves two children, Betsy Fernandes and David Carlin."

I, too, knew and liked Ira in our College days and enjoyed seeing him at reunions. Our belated condolences to his family. [Editor's note: Please see "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct.]

1959

Norman Gelfand
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As I put this submission together in mid-October, it is a balmy 70 degrees Fahrenheit in Chicago. When you get this, it will be mid-winter. I hope that the weather where you are is pleasant and that you and your entire family enjoyed the holiday season. Now on to what you want to read.

From **Joseph Ramos Quinones** SEAS'60, SIPA'64, GSAS'68, whom we hope is enjoying a warm Chilean summer, "Last year I published two books: in English, *Belief or Unbelief: The Mystery of God in the Light of Reason,* and in Spanish, *Jesus: Nine Visions of an Exceptional Person.* And a third book will be published (in Spanish), this time in my professional field, *Humanist Economics: The Importance of Non-Monetary Considerations in Economic Decisions.* So, I am keeping myself busy, while my health holds up. And I keep in touch with my dear friend **Ben Huberman**, whom I plan to see on a trip to the States this spring."

Paul Kantor and his wife, Carole, seem to have spent the last year traveling, making up, he says, for the lost opportunities due to Covid-19. To escape a Wisconsin winter, they traveled to the Southwest United States to visit family. After the winter they traveled to Scotland, and later to Malta and a cruise around Sicily. They attended the CC'59 reunion last June and visited friends in New Jersey. Later they attended a family reunion outside of Portland, Ore. They also managed to squeeze in a cruise to Alaska. They certainly have closed a good part of the gap.

Steve Trachtenberg writes, "I'm going to Washington, D.C., to speak at the National Press Club for the American Council of Trustees and Alumni. Then to Connecticut to attend the inauguration of the president at the University of Hartford. Then I'll be snuggling in at home in Minneapolis for the winter. Near a fireplace, with books. And cocoa."

Some classmates have submitted reminiscences of their days in the College and how it has impacted their later lives, which are too lengthy to be printed in one issue. I will divide them across several issues. This is hardly satisfactory, so I send these to those who receive my emails. If you want to receive them, please send me your email address. I do not share it with anyone.

To date I have submissions from **Thomas N. "Tom" Guinsurg, Joel Rein** VPS'63 and **Isser Woloch.** Notes from Tom and Joel follow.

Tom Guinsurg tells us, "Education at Columbia College: what mine has meant. It is only natural for someone who has spent a career in education to believe in it. But my belief stems from personal experience. I suspect I went into education because I had such an outstanding education, which served as the foundation of my life ever since.

"A solid, rigorous academic grounding in high school, something that is a rare commodity now in North American public schools, was the foundation for the real education that would come at university. As I think about the Columbia years, I invariably ask myself whether any university program could possibly be as rich as that which I envision having had at Columbia. The answer always comes back the same: This was the model of what university liberal arts education should be.

"To begin, there was the structure. No one could escape the requirement of completing certain prescribed courses including English composition, classical literature and philosophy, Western civilization, two years of a foreign language, two courses in science, music history and art history. What a contrast to today's 'smorgasbord' approach to education. At the time, I think I was likely not altogether enthralled with the prescriptions. In retrospect, I recognize how incredibly indebted I am to them.

"The Core Curriculum began at the College and, though modified, exists to this day. It is fair to say that whatever capability I have in appreciating literature, history, philosophy, the social sciences, music and art has been reaped from the rich soil of what we called the Core courses. I cannot imagine how different my life would have been without them.

"It was not easy to deal with Plato and Aristotle, Homer and Thucydides, in my first year. Studying them with the omni-knowledgeable Charles Van Doren GSAS'59 (before the quiz show scandal) proved wondrous. Nor at first was Music Humanities in second year my cup of tea. To the dismay of my father, so erudite in and passionate about classical music, my passion was for rock 'n' roll. The music course, though, was an academic challenge, and I never shrunk from such. Before long, my gifted instructor, Howard Shanet '39, GSAS'41, had succeeded in igniting a spark, and the fire has never gone out. And when I cried at first seeing the Parthenon some 15 years ago, I knew it was in part because that masterpiece was the first work we had studied in Arts Humanities, and I had yearned to see it in person ever since."

Joel Rein VPS'63 writes, "I am, at 85, one of the most fortunate sur-

COLUMBIA SCHOOL DESIGNATIONS

BC	Barnard College
BUS	Columbia Business School
CP	Pharmaceutical Sciences
CS	Columbia Climate School
DM	College of Dental Medicine
GS	Columbia General Studies
GSAPP	Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation
GSAS	Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
HN	Institute of Human Nutrition
JRN	Graduate School of Journalism
JTS	Jewish Theological Seminary
LAW	Columbia Law School
LS	Library Service
NRS	School of Nursing
PH	Mailman School of Public Health
SEAS	Columbia Engineering
SIPA	School of International and Public Affairs
SOA	School of the Arts
SPS	School of Professional Studies
SW	School of Social Work
TC	Teachers College
UTS	Union Theological Seminary
VPS	Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons

geons of many physician classmates to still be practicing. This is my 52nd year at Greenwich Hospital, which is remarkable in the Yale system. My work has become an office practice of surgical treatment of an abundant variety of skin cancers, all requiring degrees of reconstruction of faces or body parts to complete the treatment, in our age group. The cancers might include melanomas or other soft tissue tumors of all age patients. After a long career performing the spectrum of plastic and reconstructive surgery, this is the graceful harvest of my senior career.

"We all know that in addition to years of hard work, doing the right things for our health, marrying happily, helping to raise children to fruitful maturity, living honestly with the world in all dealings, that it might remain luck that allows this to happen. How many masterful classmates have we lost, who just haven't made it this far?

"I truly feel that much of what my life has been, and is now, I owe to Columbia — all the magnitude of ways it taught me to think about the world, to learn the profession of medicine, and to master the special craft of surgery.

"In so many ways I am still the kid from the Bronx climbing Low Steps with awe for my admission interview. The rest is commentary but allow me to catalog a bit.

"Starting from my freshman year, I spent the next 17 years studying and working in Columbia institutions. I met my wife (of now 60 years) at a Barnard mixer in my last year of medical school and married her the week before starting my internship at [what is now] Columbia University Irving Medical Center-NewYork Presbyterian Hospital. Our two children were born at Columbia Harkness during my four years of surgery residency. They are now fully launched adults with significant accomplishments of their own, but this bio is not about them.

"A hard year in the Vietnam war as an infantry medical officer with the 7th Marine Regiment was a catalyst for my change of career from becoming a chest surgeon to one of plastic surgery. It led me away from treating serious injuries, convincing me to do surgery that could make people happy. I returned from the military interruption ready to complete my primary surgical residency, which I did in 1970, then followed that the next day at the bottom rung of my new plastic surgery training at Columbia. That residency completed in 1972, ending my 17th year at Columbia."

To be continued in the next issue.

1960

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

We begin this issue with the two notes that we did not have space for in the Fall 2024 column:

Peter Phillipes writes, "I have had an interesting (sad and exciting) last three-plus years. My wife, Suzy, passed away in June 2021, after 62 years of marriage, which began at the end of my junior year at Columbia. In April 2022, I met my current wife, Tova (introduced by a mutual friend). We have been together ever since and were married on Oct. 9, 2022. We honeymooned on a Malta to Marseille cruise. June 2022 also brought the birth of our first great-grandchild, Carter Phillipes. Our combined family includes seven children, 16 grandchildren (aged 4–31) and Carter. We remain active with the Sarasota Opera Guild, the Artist Series Concerts of Sarasota, the local post of the Jewish War Veterans, the Columbia University Club of Sarasota and Temple Emanu-El of Sarasota.

"We also maintain a busy travel schedule, including trips to Israel, where Tova has a large extended family. In fall 2023 we visited Spain and Portugal. In spring 2024, it was California, from the Napa Valley to San Francisco to Los Angeles. We visited son Larry and several grandchildren, and celebrated my 84th birthday. Last September we planned to travel to the Canadian Maritime provinces, and this past June we planned a river cruise from Prague through Germany and Luxembourg, ending in Paris. Our home in Venice, Fla., is full of travel memorabilia.

"We hope to stay as active as we can for as long as we can. Regards to all."

Thad Long writes: "I recently released my fourth novel in my Ted Born Classic Courtroom Trials series: *Death on Helicon Heights.* The three previous novels have gotten very gratifying reviews: *The Impossible Mock Orange Trial* (Online Book-of-the-Month Club selection for October 2023); *The Vow: Ted Born's Last Trial;* and *The Jury Has a Verdict!* These are all works of fiction but inspired by actual experiences I have had in my law practice. Check out thadglong.com. I hope some classmates read and like them."

New news starts with **Joseph Giacalone**, who writes, "After a 57-year career teaching university-level economics, I have written an e-book, *A Philatelic Economic and Business History of the United States,* which tells the story of American economic development through its postage stamps. The 100-page volume contains brief essays on more than 200 U.S. stamps, a mini-course in economic history, exhibitions on the auto and toy industries, and a checklist of the featured stamps. You do not have to be a stamp collector to enjoy this unique take on U.S. history. It is available online at leanpub.com/economic-philatelic at a modest price."

Samuel Morton Tolkin writes: "I am an architect still licensed in New York, California and Washington. Also, I am now chair of the Planning Commission of the City of Santa Monica, where I have lived for more than 40 years. I have a great family — two sons and a daughter, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Proud of all of them."

Peter Schweitzer shares, "My wife, Annie, and I are sailing on our resident ship, *The World,* in Australia and now New Zealand. We spend about three months per year on this ship. We are Florida residents now. My family of four is quite well and flourishing. I hope to attend reunion this spring [Thursday–Saturday, May 29–31]. All the best to classmates."

John Hamby writes, "Celebrated my 86th birthday on Oct. 16. Still innovating with business operations. 'Payback' is keeping me busy in its early stages. I love to create sales differentials that serve the customer and creator."

Dr. **Daniel Schwartz** updates us: "Married to Norma for 63 years. Two daughters, one of whom graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from the College, Stephanie Schwartz '95. She is a professor of art history at University College London. The other, Allison Zales, a graduate of Wellesley College and Boston College Law with an M.P.H. from Harvard, is an attorney living in the Philadelphia suburbs. I have four grandchildren. Practiced ob/gyn at Otto's Town Medical Center for 25 years and then transitioned to administrative medicine as medical director of the same hospital, followed by a 12-year stint as a physician surveyor with

The Joint Commission. We now, in retirement, divide our time about equally between New Jersey and Florida, where we enjoy swimming, golf and so on. We try to take a couple of trips a year to Europe, where we always stop in England to visit with Stephanie and our British grandson, Lucio (9), a typical British schoolboy with a British accent and British word usage.

"In this, our 85th year, we both feel blessed to be able to live and enjoy the results of hard work, good luck and of course, our Columbia College experience."

"**Barton Reichert** and his French wife, Monique, have been based in Cannes for a bit more than four years, profiting from a fantastic view of the sea, after almost 55 years in Paris. They have two children and three grandchildren living in Paris, Monaco and Montpellier, and look forward to celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary in 2025."

Joe D'Erasmo writes, "I can't believe it has been more than 60 years since we graduated. Like with the rest of my classmates, a lot has happened since then and much of it is thanks to my College education.

"A brief synopsis: After more than 60 years of a litigation practice I retired from the practice of law in February 2020. Like most lawyers involved in the trial of cases there were many adventures along the way, but one of the highlights was representing a group from South Dakota in its claim before the Iran United States Claims Tribunal in the Hague, Netherlands. Dealing with opposing Iranian lawyers in the tribunal with its own unique rules and a diverse three-judge panel was an experience I will never forget.

"Since then I have had lunch with my '60s roommate, **Ralph Galdo** BUS'62, a retired Exxon Mobil executive who has traveled all over the world representing that company, and **Andy Kubishen**, a retired Navy officer whose experience included duty as a commander of a ship delivering supplies and arms to assigned locations. Both live here in the Washington, D.C., area, where I have lived since 1965. We get together occasionally to tell each other war stories and to eat and drink. Fatter than we were in 1960 with the aches and pains of alleged 'old age,' but just as feisty.

"But I must brag about my daughter Stacy D'Erasmo BC'93, a much-published author who taught creative writing at Columbia and now teaches creative writing at Fordham. My best legacy.

"My best to my '60s classmates and to the faculty and present administration at Columbia College."

John Gubbings shares an update: "I study the stock market and volunteer in many activities supporting Unitarian Universalism. I married and divorced my second wife in the 1970s and married Catherine Knapper in 1992. I have two daughters from my first wife, Joyce Symes, and they each have two children. My wife has a daughter, three grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Luckily we are all in the Washington, D.C., region and see each other often."

CCT has learned that former class correspondent **Robert Machleder** died on July 9, 2024. At press time no other information was available.

Please send *CCT* your news by email or by using the online webform college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Classmates would enjoy learning what you have been up to and how you are.

Class Notes are submitted by alumni and edited by volunteer class correspondents and the staff of *CCT* prior to publication. Opinions expressed are those of individual alumni and do not reflect the opinions of *CCT*, its class correspondents, the College or the University. By submitting to Class Notes, you acknowledge that the text is eligible to appear in print as well as on *CCT* online and in archives.

1961

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John Learned Ph.D. is a professor of physics and remains teaching full time and working on research projects at the University of Hawaii (UH). He has received several awards for his work on initiating neutrino astronomy during the last four decades. In particular, he was awarded the 2023 Yodh Prize at UC Irvine in April 2024, with a series of talks and events across three days. He also wrote the initial drafts of two papers that received the Nobel Prize in 1987 (Supernova 1987A observed in neutrinos) and again in 1998 (discovering neutrino oscillations). While the prize went to the group leaders, John and his wife were invited to Stockholm and enjoyed the week of celebrations.

John was also co-recipient of the Rossi Prize in 1989, the Asahi Prize in 1998 and the UH Regents Medal for Excellence in Research in 1999. He is a world authority in particle astrophysics and travels widely to lecture at international meetings. Currently, his group is involved in several ongoing underground experiments in mines in Kamioka (Japan) and Europe.

Bernie Muench SEAS'62, BUS'65 offered a paper, *Anatomy of a Superior Overactive Bladder (OAB) Therapy,* to the *AMA Journal of Ethics.* A summary follows: OAB symptoms affect 33 million Americans and OAB treatments cost more than $12 billion annually. For the last three years, no physician or medical organization mentioned TTNS or TENS (transcutaneous tibial (or electrical) nerve stimulation) as an alternative to PTNS (percutaneous tibial nerve stimulation). Further, the National Association for Continence, American Urological Association, University of Michigan Health and American Medical Association websites do not mention TTNS. However, credible reports state that the results (i.e., OAB symptom relief) of TTNS equal PTNS2. The statements ignore TTNS' advantages of lower cost and greater reliability, comfort, convenience and efficiency.

Individual annual TTNS treatment cost is less than $100, which is 93 percent less than PTNS, at $1,500 or more. Drugs and implants are even more expensive. Projecting more than $1 billion annual savings by replacing PTNS with TTNS is not difficult. Ethics demands action to realize the savings.

Joe Rosenstein's book *Reflections on* Pirkei Avot (Ethics of the Fathers)*: Not Just What My Rebbe Taught Me* is available as an e-book on Amazon.

Bob Salman LAW'64 presented his election analysis at the October class Zoom meeting and later that month at Brookdale Community College in Monmouth County, N.J. Bob's analysis suggested that Kamala Harris would triumph in an Electoral College squeaker, the Democrats would take the house narrowly and the Republicans were a slight favorite to take the senate.

Avrum Bluming VPS'65's new book, the second edition of *Estrogen Matters: Why Taking Hormones in Menopause Can Improve and Lengthen Women's Lives — Without Raising the Risk of Breast Cancer,* which he co-wrote with social psychologist Carol Tavris, was published in September. The first edition was published in September 2018.

Since its initial release, the book has been rated, by sales, among the top 1/10th of 1 percent of the eight million books sold by Amazon. It has been translated into a British edition, a German edition and a Chinese edition. A Spanish edition is to be released in 2025. It is currently Number 1 in Breast Cancer and Number 3 in Menopause and in General Women's Health on Amazon.

Avrum has been giving live talks and podcast interviews around the world and is a member of the "Menoposse," a self-organized group of gynecologists, orthopedists, urologists and internists committed to updating available information on the benefits and harms of hormone replacement therapy to both the medical and lay communities. He is often joined in these talks by Dr. Sharon Malone VPS'88.

As noted in the Summer 2024 issue, **Adolf "Fred" Toborg** TC'68 died at home on March 2, 2024, after a short illness. A graduate of Erasmus Hall H.S. in Brooklyn, N.Y., he followed in his brother Al Toborg '54, GSAS'65's footsteps to Columbia.

Soccer was Fred's passion, and he played in high school, college and the Navy, where aboard the *U.S.S. Boxer* he organized a team that played throughout the Caribbean.

Fred earned a master's in physical education from Teachers College in 1968, which led to coaching soccer at Birch Wathen Lenox School and at Trinity School in New York City, where he worked for 30 years. He used to laugh and say, "They pay me to play with kids."

Fred's wife of 54 years, Barbara, passed away on June 11, 2024. He is survived by his children, Lili NRS'99 and Michael (Lehigh '99); their spouses, Clayton Cargill and Katrin Heinzmann Toborg; and grandchildren Nolan and Graham Cargill, and Amy and Lucy Toborg.

Arthur Schwimmer passed away on Jan. 11, 2024. Art was a highly respected appellate attorney, renowned for his skilled briefs and arguments at various Courts of Appeal in California and beyond. He was a lawyer's lawyer. Art earned a J.D. from Brooklyn Law School in 1964. He was licensed to practice in California and New York, in the Supreme Courts of California and New York, in the U.S. Customs Court and in the U.S. Supreme Court. He was an exercise addict, a crossword aficionado, a *Jeopardy!* enthusiast, an English and language grammarian, an amazing pianist and a classical music nerd.

Art will be sorely missed by everyone who knew him. The family requests that donations made in his memory be sent to the American Heart Association. He is survived by his wife, Arlene NRS'61, and their children and grandchildren.

[Editor's note: Please go "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct, to read more about Toborg and Schwimmer.]

1962

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Forgive my not reminding you of **Dennis Wilder** GSAS'63's suggestion that our aging might be an interesting topic to look into: "How are we coping with older age? (Note: older, not old, age.) Midlife received a lot of attention years ago, but what about late life?"

I'll send you a prompt when I solicit updates for the next issue.

In September, when asking for news, I wrote that some commentators think 12th-graders are more fearful about more things than seniors. Do you think more Americans are fearful than they were 60 years ago? Are you? Are your children or grandchildren more fearful than you were at their ages?

Nearly everyone who replied expressed fear for the survival of democracy and/or the election of Donald J. Trump. **Stephen Stein** put it succinctly: "Aside from the health and financial issues our age group usually worries about, what I find overwhelmingly new this election year is that half the country is deathly afraid of Donald J. Trump winning the presidency and the other half is equally afraid of Kamala Harris winning. We are a divided nation! My wife and I are more fearful for our democracy and loss of freedoms than ever if Trump wins. Our grown children and grandchildren feel the same way!"

Stephen has retired from full-time practice of interventional radiology and now lectures to radiology residents at two Connecticut hospitals. His daughter Sara '02 and her husband, Noah '01, are Columbia graduates.

Ira Bloomgarden recalled the Cuban Missile Crisis: "I vividly remember walking out of Butler Library during a bad day, wondering if I'd be able to continue reading the odd but remarkable book by one of the scholars I was following: *The Lord of the Rings.* That was fear. Today's fear is more insidious, the sense that the values necessary for civilized life are falling into desuetude. Perhaps the curmudgeon has taken root in us old men. Maybe we'll all feel better with another Ivy League football championship. Or perhaps:

'Waves of anger and fear
'Circulate over the bright
'And darkened lands of the earth
'Obsessing our private lives.'"

Gerry Sorin GSAS'69 offered thoughtful advice: "I'd rather talk about why some of us 'hope against hope,' the title of Nadezhda Mandelstam's account of the USSR under Stalinism. It's a celebration of the value of literature and imaginative freedom and an inspiration to keep love and art alive in desperate times. We've survived four years of the worst presidency in American history. I don't know whether we'll survive another. But fear is not something to surrender to. Look at our personal strengths and those of many of our institutions and how we can further strengthen them. We can overcome fear by achieving the positive wherever possible. We can stay in the fight for justice, be merciful and still walk humbly."

"As a Ukrainian American," **Roman Kernitsky** is "more fearful now than before because the world does not comprehend the threats to the democracies of Ukraine and Israel. And I'm grateful for being alive." Roman retired from being a full-time ophthalmologist and is now a *locum tenens* in different parts of the country.

Chris Haakon's grandchildren are not fearful of the future, he writes, "because they don't watch news or read the newspapers like I did and still do. They are into social media and sports. For example, my 27-year-old grandson manages 30-plus influencers, lives in Los Angeles in a penthouse overlooking Marina Del Ray and makes tons of money. He dropped out of college to pursue his passion. My wife and I are healthy, traveling and enjoying a great life. We are blessed to live in America."

Larry Gaston says: "Interesting that you send an email to 200 men who are 84 and have lost many of their family, friends, doctors, investment counselors, favorite musicians, etc. The question of an afterlife takes on a different meaning than it had when we were riding the subway to Baker Field on Saturday afternoons. Sure, I'm afraid. But I'm trying to direct my attention away from things over which I have no control."

Bob Meyers' "biggest concern right now is the presidential election. I'm concerned and yes, fearful, that if Mr. Trump wins he and his followers will try to dismantle the protections provided by our democratic processes. Even if he loses, they will continue to interfere with and object to the election results. I wasn't fearful during the Vietnam War, but instead had anger and was pissed off at our government."

On the opening game of the football season, **Joe Nozzolio** watched Columbia defeat Lafayette and was moved to write: "Robert K. Kraft Field had two big circles on the two 20-yard lines with the number 67 in the middle, an obvious tribute to our deceased classmate Captain **Billy Campbell**."

Larry Loewinger wrote that when thinking of fear, he cannot contemplate anything beyond November's election. Whatever the outcome, it will not dissipate fears of gun violence. "I recently canvassed for Kamala Harris in Matamoras, Pa., a working-class river town that is pure Americana. I was unaware of any shootings there, yet wondered whether the kids joyfully playing outdoors felt safe there or in their classrooms. Violence seemed far from this bucolic scene. But the ubiquity of guns haunts us all. Children have good reason to be fearful. They are victims and sometimes perpetrators."

Andy Jampoler SIPA'81 and family "are well (contemplation of the political scene here and abroad aside). [As I write] we await the birth of our first great-grandchild in October! We and our two Labrador Retrievers plan to relocate from Washington, D.C., to southern Pennsylvania to be closer to our daughter's family … likely our last move after an itinerant lifetime. Our daughter ran for her fourth term in the U.S. House."

When I wrote about fear, I was thinking not of governmental matters, but of countless little fears that have altered how people act now compared to when I grew up in the 1950s. We never locked our house; my parents never warned me of dangers when I left the house. We all drank from the same ladle when we played sports. Nor did we fear strangers — even when taking the wrong subway to Columbia and ending up on Lenox Avenue. Nor do I recall much, if any, fear of crime, immigrants, poisoned foods, idleness or not eating properly. We weren't immune to fear; polio, the Soviets and nuclear war frightened us. The striking difference between then and now is that for the last 25 years, businesses, politicians, teachers, parents and others routinely warn younger (and older) people about dangers that never occurred to me or my parents until I was over 30. Worse, some businesses and politicians deliberately stimulate fearfulness to promote themselves.

The Book of Charlie: Wisdom from the Remarkable American Life of a 109-Year-Old Man by David von Drehle speaks to these issues and is a wonderful read. It describes how Charlie, a Kansas City man, lived 109 years, nearly all in the 20th century. Although he encountered countless changes, as we have, and many disappointments, he nevertheless forged a happy, stable, rewarding life, free of fear. Much of his success came from never allowing himself to be upset by anything he could not control.

1963

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The disappointment of our Homecoming loss to Dartmouth was softened by sharing lunch in the Big

Tent and sitting in the stands with **Steve Barcan, Lee Lowenfish, Larry Neuman** and **Ed Coller.** Ed was there to greet the newly revived Pep Band, which successfully continued the tradition of marching badly. But they broke tradition by playing well.

As our column moves closer to the front of Class Notes, I am starting to get more notes like this one from **Art Eisenson:** "Older, slower, creakier, still living in Albuquirky and still writing fiction for sale on KDP, under the pseudonym Frank Steel, which is the accurate translation of the names my paternal grandfathers had when they got to Ellis Island. Still trying to make sense of life by writing stories. Regards to old friends, and damn, we are old."

Yes, Art, we are old but hanging on to the spirit of youth for as long as we damn can.

Michael Hassan writes, "My brother Richie Hassan '62 got his prosthetic recently, and after two years in a wheelchair, he is finally UP AND AT 'EM! He lost a foot (mid shin) due to a bone break two years ago and has had other medical challenges that have precluded getting his prosthetic sooner. However, now that he has it, he gets up at least twice a day to walk and get used to it, with balance being his biggest challenge right now. We were targeting Xmas to continue our golf matches (finally). I quit golf when Richie broke his femur so that I wouldn't have an unfair advantage, but it's time to get back on the horse! I'll let you know when we play and who won … in December (I hope). Wish him luck and strong will!"

Harley Frankel writes, "I recently learned that the federal government has provided 500,000,000 Pell Grants since its enactment in spring 1974. I played a key role in getting the last two votes to get it out of committee and to the floor. The policy staff in Health, Education, and Welfare had given up and told me the bill was dead. I refused to give up and found a way to get two members of the committee to change their votes over Spring Break in 1974. It sailed right through and was signed into law shortly thereafter."

Richard Goldwater writes, "My first full-screen movie credit is for a movie released in October in Australia, *How to Make Gravy,* featuring Hugo Weaving. My credit is for Maieutics, from the Greek for midwifery, which describes me as the midwife of the film. My Columbia education is on subtle display."

Phil Satow writes, "My daughter Julie '96, SIPA'01's book *When Women Ran Fifth Avenue: Glamour and Power at the Dawn of American Fashion*, published last June, is a *New York Times* bestseller in the nonfiction category. Julie was recently interviewed by **David Alpern** on behalf of the Dutch Treat Club in NYC. The book is also on the Nonfiction Longlist for the Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction and Nonfiction. Proudly, the book is dedicated to her parents!"

David Orme-Johnson was recently honored as the second president of Maharishi International University during the installation of the sixth president, Dr. Tony Nader Ph.D. All the previous presidents were honored. David recently had transcatheter aortic valve replacement and is doing well.

The notes submitted for this issue have been sadly sparse (don't let this happen again!), so I thought I'd seek you out online. **Lee Lowenfish**'s blog (llowenfish.ag-sites.net/blog) always offers wonderful analysis of the baseball season and other sports, especially Columbia. **Patrick Cary-Barnard** continues to submit videos to YouTube. If you search for his channel, Pimento3, you can subscribe and view them. The videos cover environmental issues around Montreal, where he lives, and the occasional book review. Also on YouTube, you can find many fine political/parody pieces that **Nick Zill** has written or produced for Capitol Comedy if you look for "City in a Swamp" productions.

Please let me know about the online sites you maintain, and I will list them here. Also, search for classmates on Facebook, Instagram and other social media — lots of ways to keep up.

If you'd like to stay in touch more, you can join our Google group and get in on daily discussions with about 100 classmates. Just send me an email and I'll sign you up. We continue to meet virtually on Zoom every first and third Thursday at 12:30 p.m. EST. Let me know if you would like to join us, and I'll send you an invite. In the meantime, please let us know what you are up to, how you're doing and what's next. Stay safe, stay well!

1964

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Happy New Year to each of you and your loved ones. A year of Good Health, Peace, Joy and Prosperity.

As I sit down to write this Class Notes column it is the middle of October, the Yankees have won the American League pennant, the Dodgers have won the National League pennant, and they will meet in the World Series. Just as when we were kids.

Mike Brownstein writes: "I enjoyed my years at Columbia, especially my time in the Kingsmen. In the 60 years since I left, I earned an M.D. and a Ph.D. at the University of Chicago, did an internship at Boston Children's Hospital and then went to the National Institutes of Health as an officer in the Public Health Service to satisfy my military obligation. I worked with Julius 'Julie' Axelrod, who won a Nobel Prize two years before I came. After a year and a half, Julie asked if I'd like to stay a bit longer, and I remained at the NIH for more than three decades. Then I moved briefly to the J. Craig Venter Institute and left so that I could help create biotechs. My wife, Eva, still works at the NIH. Two of my daughters, Alice and Anna, are physicians. My third daughter, Sarah, does flying trapeze. I have four grandkids, all of them Anna's [children]."

Joe O'Donnell is "headed for annual (30-plus years) Normandy and Paris trip with his wife, Barbara, closing out Vermont foliage season. Will follow Lions football via ESPN+. Recall: The Class of '64 is the last class with all (three) winning seasons and the only Ivy title. Time for the current team to end that."

From **Michael Sklaroff:** "I reread your excellent Class Notes column in the Fall 2024 issue. You captured the spirit of what I felt at reunion. Simone Signoret wrote a book, *Nostalgia Isn't What It Used to Be.* She was wrong. I can't get enough of it when it comes to my years at Columbia (including my first year at the Law School). And Class Notes are essential for me.

"One thing worth mentioning. **Dan Nussbaum,** I and one or two others attended the Columbia Reunion 2024 panel 'Jewish Life on Campus: Past, Present and Future.' It went on for about two hours. One thing was clear: The University had lost control of the campus. We learned later that the program has found a sad place in the College's history. If it was recorded, it would be interesting to hear exactly what was said in the public forum. The speakers, a Jewish student in the College (now living off campus for safety reasons), a former dean of the Law School, and a representative of Columbia/Barnard Hillel, made what I thought were valuable and heartfelt comments. There was a question-and-answer session after and focused on whether the University had done enough to protect students and others. We learned later, of course, that three College associate deans and the dean of the College had [reportedly] conducted their own surreptitious, snarky critique of the speakers."

Michael Friedman GSAS'70 has a second act: "To my surprise, I've become a jazz photographer in my old age. After 50-plus years as a social worker and social advocate, I have become the house photographer for Keystone Korner Baltimore, a major jazz club, where I now live. There's still some life left in this old man."

Michael's photographs can be seen online at bit.ly/4hFdT2E, bit.ly/3YTRdnX and bit.ly/3AoguNP.

Michael Gunter SIPA'66, a professor of political science at Ten-

SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE

- If your class has a correspondent, email them at the address at the top of your column.
- If *CCT* handles your class, email **cct@columbia.edu** (please indicate your class year).
- All classes may submit using the online webform **college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.**

nessee Tech University, and a leading authority on the Kurds in Turkey, Iraq, Syria and Iran, has been busy: "I gave four talks in India in January 2024: 'Pursuing Academic Scholarship' at Chanakya University, in Bangalore; 'Gaza: Past, Present, and Future,' at the University of Mysore; 'The Peaceful Settlement of Disputes: Its Inherent Limitations' at the U.S. Consulate Kolkata; and 'The War in Gaza: Its Implications' at the International Management Institute in Kolkata. A month later I spoke on 'Karabakh from the Perspective of International Law,' at the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center's Goodman Auditorium in Skokie. My co-edited book, *Heydar Aliyev and the Foundations of Modern Azerbaijan,* was published last June."

Jonathan Weiss writes: "After 51 years of teaching French language and literature at Colby College in Maine, I finally retired at 81. Except for sabbaticals, I spent every year of my life after Columbia studying or teaching: first at Yale, where I earned a Ph.D., then at the University of Warwick in the United Kingdom, then Colby in 1972. I was fortunate to have multiple trips to France, most recently in Dijon, where I directed Colby's study abroad program for many years. In between teaching, and publishing three books and numerous articles, I managed to lead a rather conventional life in rural Maine; three sons and four grandchildren brighten my life every day. It is with a great deal of nostalgia that I reflect on my four years at Columbia. I had exceptional professors who showed me what teaching and scholarship should be. Fun fact: My adviser was Professor Jean Sareil GSAS'60. Except that his surname was an anagram for his real name: Israel. Who knew?"

Andrew Russakoff was awarded professor emeritus of St. John's University in Jamaica, N.Y.

I am saddened to report the deaths of three classmates. [Editor's note: Read more in "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct.]

Steven Sindell. A native of Cleveland, Steve earned a law degree at the UC Berkeley School of Law and spent 50 years practicing in Ohio. He represented victims of the 1970 Kent State University shootings, and in that case, at 31, secured a unanimous U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Scheuer v. Rhodes* (1974), one of the court's most important federal civil rights rulings. His wife, Rachel, died last year. He is survived by four children, Jessica, Daniel, David and Deborah, and three grandchildren.

Alex Ray. His wife, Ellen Light GSAPP'76, writes: "Alex was an accomplished scientist and medical doctor, as well as a much-loved father and husband. Originally from New York City, he lived in Baltimore, where he earned a Ph.D. in immunology, did post-doc work in Scandinavia and Texas, and earned an M.D. from University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. He lived most of his adult life, and practiced allergy medicine, in the Boston area. He was modest, always intellectually curious and had a great sense of humor. Alex passed away peacefully on June 28, 2024. Our family had many precious years with him and miss him deeply."

Mike Willis GSAS'65. A report from **Steve Stander:** "Last summer, on a trip to the Glimmerglass Opera in Cooperstown, N.Y., I learned of Michael's Feb. 16, 2024, death, as there was a lovely remembrance of him in the Opera House program.

"Mike was from Little Rock, Ark., as was my roommate for three years, **Irving Spitzberg.** Together with Mike's longtime partner, **Bill Oliver** GSAS'65, we occupied 1201 New Hall (now Carman) for two years. After a career in publishing, Mike became director of press and public relations at the Glimmerglass, where Bill also was involved. I also read that Mike and Bill maintained a friendship with their intellectual hero, Provost Jacques Barzun CC 1927, GSAS 1932, who visited them when attending the Glimmerglass Opera."

Resquiescant in pace.

1965

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Peter Levine GSAS'66 starred in *Backslider's Ball,* one of three original one-act plays interpreting the power of perseverance, presented Sept. 6–8 by the Polaris North theater group at 245 W. 29th St. in NYC.

James Levy LAW'68 sent us an update: "During the past several months, two projects that I have been pursuing doggedly for years have finally come to fruition.

"The first involves the reinstatement (after a 15-year lapse) of Greyhound bus service to St. Albans on the Montreal/Boston route. As St. Albans' self-appointed transportation ambassador, I engaged in an extended dialogue across several years with Greyhound's route coordinator for the northeast corridor, and after many hits and misses (particularly with Covid-19 shockwaves reverberating until late last year) finally succeeded last June in having four daily bus stops reestablished for our community.

"The second pursuit relates to the *Mocking Justice* saga involving rogue narc Paul Lawrence, who framed several hundred innocent victims in Vermont during the 1970s. After more than 40 years of seemingly fruitless efforts to entice a filmmaker to undertake a theatrical or documentary film production that would memorialize the sordid events that tarnished so many lives in our region, I at last convinced a producer friend to create a documentary on this episode. The project now is in the early production stages, with multiple interviews on tape completed. It is anticipated that a release date will be announced sometime in 2025. I am keeping my fingers crossed that nothing at the last minute jeopardizes this initiative (after all, filmmaking is a risky business), which has consumed so much of my energy, creative spirit and passion over the course of most of my adult lifetime."

James also sent me an "anecdotal account," "A Prescient Lawyer often can be more effective than a Feisty Litigator." Look for it in the Summer 2025 issue.

1966

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Hello, CC'66 classmates. I hope all of you had a restful winter holiday season and New Year. Several classmates wanted to share their thoughts with us.

Michael Harrison had this to say: "My wife, Jo Ann BC'66, whom I met just before graduation, passed away last spring, just short of our 57th anniversary. She was an educational researcher and college teacher, a mediator, and a champion of bridging gaps between subcultures, and national and ethnic groups. We had a very rewarding marriage and were the proud parents of Nathan and the grandparents of three grandchildren. We both received doctorates from the University of Michigan and taught in the early '70s at SUNY Stony Brook, then moved to Israel, where we lived for almost 30 years before returning to the United States. I am now in North Bethesda, Md. I retired about a year and a half ago after 20 years as a social scientist at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, a small agency within the Department of Health & Human Services. I would be happy to connect with Columbia grads."

Tod Howard Hawks wrote: "I served six years (1990–96) on the Columbia College Alumni Association Board of Directors. Since dropping out of law school, I became a poet. I posted my novel, *A Child for Amaranth,* online. Moreover, I remain an ardent human-rights advocate. I miss all of you. (My mailing address: 1055 Adams Cir., Apt. 302, Boulder, CO 80303.)"

Fred Lerner LS'81 writes in: "All is well here in White River Junction, Vt., where the big news (big to me, at least) is that my first science fiction novel, *In Memoriam: A Novel of the Terran Diaspora,* was published on July 2. [As I write,] I'm on my way to the World Science Fiction Convention in Glasgow, where I intend to show it off."

Alexander Auerbach: "It was great to see the attention in the Fall 2024 issue's Class Notes and Bookshelf given to **Joe Albeck**'s book, *Shaped by Shadows: A Psychiatrist and Poet Explores His Holocaust Heritage,* which I had the pleasure of editing. Joe and I worked on his manuscript for nearly three years, which made for a nice distraction from the pandemic. It was also a wonderful way to strengthen a friendship that began on campus and continued through our time as apartmentmates in Boston, when Joe was at Harvard Medical and I was at *The Boston Globe,* and the decades and life events since then.

"I'm also fortunate to have stayed in touch with one of my Columbia roommates, **Steve Weinberg** GSAPP'68. Both Steve and I are still working — he as a consultant in affordable housing and economic development, and me in marketing and public relations."

Bob Meyerson: "I really fancied myself a good football player but I was never coached. I was mostly a neighborhood guy across the Spuyten Duyvil / Harlem River Ship Canal up on the hill in the Bronx, though due to dredging the lines between Manhattan and the Bronx did not follow that divide. I played touch football in graduate school at the University of Minnesota. My history adviser died when I was a senior and I had no one pulling for me though, in retrospect, Minnesota had a lot of great teacher/scholars. After earning a Ph.D. and having a champion in the great Bismarck scholar, Otto Pflanze (from Marysville, Tenn.) I knocked around for a few years until my mother-in-law, the local bank's president, asked me to work in the bank 'until you find a job.' That was Syttende mai 1977. I remember crying in the back room once while running the proof machine, a vestige of an earlier era. Now, you might say, I'm crying all the way to the bank(s), as we have grown from $10 million (~$60 million in today's dollars) to ~$340 million and six locations, all in small towns. Banking is not as interesting as history, but I try to keep a foot in academia with membership and readership in a Bard College reading group with about 100 participants from around the world who read the works of Hannah Arendt, the subject of my dissertation. I run a sub-group of half a dozen members, Arendt Knaves (riffing off Don Quixote), that meets once a week. When I reread Arendt now I am more confused than ever — my age or my shallow dissertation understanding with the provocative title, *Hannah Arendt, Romantic in a Totalitarian World.* Hope this finds you well."

Fellow class correspondent Leonard Pack '65 shared this update on **Dan Hofstadter,** who "wrote a featured review in *The Wall Street Journal* on Oct. 4 of *Monet: The Restless Vision,* by Jackie Wullschläger, which Dan called 'a splendidly researched and shrewdly insightful biography.' The book is a 576-page doorstop, and Dan's task was to distill it into a relatively short review, which was titled '"Monet" Review: A Portrait of Perseverance.' I was struck by Dan's synthesis of the details of Monet's final stylistic evolution, at a time when he was often impatient with his work. Those with a *WSJ* subscription can read it online: bit.ly/3YWg9Lr."

Any news is good news. Enjoy.

1967

Albert Zonana
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Sanford Friedman wrote: "I am finishing a career in medicine and cardiology. It has been focused on patient care and has been rewarding. I have been married for 37 years. We have a wonderful daughter. Until age 72 my hobby was triathlon. We are culture freaks and love living in NYC — opera, symphony, theater, museums. I am re-reading the Core Curriculum volumes. They seem these days to have much more relevance to our current problems. There is a lot there about governance. I feel indebted to Columbia for so much in my life."

Gabriel Echavarria: "Going on 80. Lots of work in my family companies and foundations. Daily exercise and outdoor living, between Colombia and Spain."

Jim McLendon wrote: "Enjoying the good life in Corvallis, Ore."

Andy Vogelson: "I retired as a psychologist three years ago … bored! Ran a group practice and did forensic work in child custody. Recently started working three mornings a week at a nursing home. Happy. Love living in Philadelphia. Miss several old Columbia friends."

Roger Lehecka GSAS'74 went back to work in August as interim dean of students for the College. As a loyal son of Columbia, he answered the call and came out of retirement when asked back by Dean Josef Sorett, who wrote, "Starting Aug. 1, Roger Lehecka CC'67 will lead the Undergraduate Student Life team as interim dean of students while a national search is conducted for a permanent dean. This new chapter in Roger's lifetime of service to Columbia, both to the College and the University, comes at a critical juncture. Given the depth and breadth of his institutional knowledge, I am thankful that Roger has also agreed to serve as special adviser to the dean.

"Since coming to the College as a first-generation low-income student and helping found Project Double Discovery (DDC's original name) in 1965, and throughout his tenure as dean of students from 1979 to 1998, Roger has focused his career in higher education on expanding opportunity for those previously excluded from a college education. Though he retired from a full-time career at Columbia in 2004, Roger has remained engaged with our community as an active alumni leader, through contributions to a variety of committees and boards, and as an instructor in the Center for American Studies. Over decades, his service has been recognized with numerous awards including the Heritage Award from Columbia's Black Alumni Council in 2015."

Finally, six members of our *Spectator* managing board have periodically engaged in lively email conversations through the years, most recently about last spring's events at Columbia. These exchanges remind us of our Sunday evening meetings in which we established positions on the next week's five editorials, and they often hearken back to the Core and how much it influenced our thinking, and still does. The conversations are among **Mark Minton, Chris Hartzell, Dean Ringel, Leigh Dolin, Marty Andrucki** and **Albert Zonana.**

Be well, all of you, and do write.

1968

Jeffrey Kurnit
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I didn't hear from as many of you as last time, but here's the news I have.

Fred Block wrote: "I am enjoying my 14th year of retirement from teaching sociology at UC Davis. My book *The Habitation Society: Creating Sustainable Prosperity* — a variation on themes elaborated by Daniel Bell, whose courses I took as an undergraduate — will be published in February. In addition to grandparent duties, I have started a nonprofit, the Center for Engaged Scholarship, which provides dissertation fellowships to activist scholars."

Ray Englander wrote: "I live in the beautiful Northwest, in Eugene, Ore., where I've been since 1978 when I came to try the West for a year. I practice neurology but now only a couple of days a week and mostly as a personally rewarding 'hobby.' I remain active by hiking, golfing and doing dog agility with our Aussie, and I am a member of the Eugene Symphony board. My wife and I enjoy travel; we recently took a trip to Egypt and went on our third African safari with family."

Tom Sanford BUS'72 wrote last summer, "My wife, Candy, and I live in Stonington Village, Conn., hopping back and forth to our place in Quonochontaug, R.I., a beach community only 25 minutes away. I row almost every day on the Mystic River, past the Mystic Seaport Museum, and try to keep my mind active by being a member of and raising money for local organizations, reading the books I should have read at Columbia, enjoying time with our children and grandchildren — who take over the beach house for the summer — and yes, spending too much time grocery shopping and not enough time traveling! All in all, a very enjoyable retirement."

Richard Stiefler wrote: "My renewed involvement with Columbia awaits confidence knowing fully that Columbia has turned the corner on campus antisemitism and opened a chapter without equivocation in which we all can rejoice in this sorry saga."

Sol Usher wrote: "I live in Westchester with my wife of 55 years, whom I was fortunate to meet at the NYU School of Medicine (now NYU Grossman School of Medicine). I am semi-retired, having closed my private practice of urologic medicine and surgery in 2015. I work part time as a consultant for the Veterans Administration's urology clinics.

"I was very disturbed by last spring's demonstrations at Columbia and at many other campuses. Trying to age gracefully. There are so many things we are not told about getting old. As they say, the alternative could be worse. My best to my fellow alumni of the Class of '68."

My wife, Abby BC'68, and I, like many of you I'm sure, see a lot of doctors these days, but we try to enjoy the health we have. I work out four or five mornings a week. My gym closed its pool, so I'm looking for someplace else to exercise. We sing in a synagogue choir and with the Village Light Opera Group when there is an appropriate project. And, of course, there are the grandchildren, who are loads of fun.

Keep sending news.

Sans souci!

1969

Columbia College Today
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Thank you to the following alumni, who responded to our call for updates.

Ron Alexander writes, "Recently **John Alico SEAS'69** and I went camping for a week in Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks. Freshman year, in spring 1966, sitting at the end of the hall on the 11th floor of Carman Hall and listening to Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade,* we dreamed of a trip out West. Fifty-eight years later, we did it."

Albert B. Fernandez "got tired of being retired and is teaching part time in The University of Chicago's Basic Program of Liberal Education for Adults, an online program, starting in January. The program's curriculum, focused on 'Great Books,' is similar to the Core Curriculum."

Dr. **John W. Lombardo** VPS'73 writes, "Little to report here, except that my family and I are having great fun supporting the women's basketball and men's football teams. For once, we have two coaches who love their players, and the feeling seems mutual. It's great to watch, and the victories keep piling up."

Dick Menaker notes, "I'm still practicing commercial litigation, having folded our Manhattan-based firm of 35 years into Offit Kurman, a bigger outfit. Currently I'm operating out of New College, Oxford, on an appointment to the academic staff for some projects in English legal history. Research before lunch and law practice thereafter and into the night. About as much free time as a freshman at Columbia. Son Jeff runs the tennis program at Wagner College. Son Brian is professor of sports management at Texas A&M, Kingsville. Faith, my wife of 48 years, planned to take a break from grandchild tending and join me in November."

John Van Dusen Lewis writes, "Right now, at 77, I am still working on nature-based solutions, mostly in Africa, to global warming. As such, I was recently named to the Advisory Board at the School of Professional Studies.

"That sustainability preoccupation goes back to my anthropology dissertation research (Ph.D., Yale '79) on ethno-agricultural ecology in Central Mali. After three follow-up academic years (Howard University, 1978–81), I joined USAID Agriculture as a Foreign Service officer (1980–2000), becoming USAID's senior agriculturalist (1994–2000) before retirement. By then, I was already deeply involved with at least two of the conventions at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, also known as the Earth Summit and held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992: United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, having served, episodically, on the U.S. delegation for each. After retirement (2001), occasioned by the lack of a Supreme Court-mandated voter recount in Florida (where Al Gore might have had more votes), we developed a Bay Area-based, nature-based solution asset development company (terraglobalcapital.com), sold a bit more than two years ago. Other AI measurement platform initiatives, for such NBS offset possibilities, are now in the offing.

"In my increasingly elusive spare time, I have been working on a historical novel set in the 18th century. It tracks the inter-relationships during the last half of that century among the four countries that I know best: my own, France, Mali and Haiti. All of its characters actually existed. Its conception has only been possible with the foundations in that century's history that I was privileged to acquire as a College history major."

Henry Samuel Jackson checks in: "In addition to reading books I have long intended to read, I have begun to pester my grandnephew, who has begun studying German, with quotations from German sources, folk songs, etc. In other words, I have become an old fart, much as my great-uncles were for me back in the day. I hope he won't hate me too much."

Sarah Witkin '09 shared that her father, **Eric Witkin**, a former Columbia College Alumni Association Board of Directors president and a dedicated and involved alumnus, passed away on Oct. 7, 2024, after a yearlong battle with cancer. Here, her remembrance of him.

"Sometime in my dad's last month, I read him a poem he had once helped me analyze with his characteristic passion, consulting as always, on one of my Lit Hum papers. Its meaning I now understood as he had: 'truth is beauty,' the tragic fact inherent in life; its full intensity, in all its beautiful moments, felt only with the passing of time, will meet an inevitable end. To never experience loss would be to never fully love; 'to never kiss,' protected from pain, but suspended in unfulfilled longing. Not knowing if Dad had been able to hear me in his half-lidded delirium, 'Keats,' he firmly announced when I stopped reading.

"This very paradox of life Dad carried with gravity, 'the most precious thing we have is time'; he warned not to waste it. In dying, he taught us that every moment we have with each other is precious. By his bedside, my brother and I each holding one of his hands as he kissed one of ours, 'How can I make this last forever?' knowing he could not ... and days later, 'Are we all making the most of our time as a family?' Always critical, analyzing and wondering if we were doing our best. 'We did all we could, we did the best we could.' — coming from Dad, it meant that we really did.

"Dad remains vivid in our memories because of how clearly he viewed the world and shared those views with such conviction. Though we have lost a most sound guide, the values he made clear and lived by — loyalty, trust, honesty, integrity, taking care of the people he loved — we carry on as his legacy. Dearest to Dad of all was family; his message to his grandchildren, 'Take care of each other, and their beautiful family.'

"In Dad's final weeks, I truly felt what it is to love by caring for someone you love. In the hospital, sadness welling up in our throats, making it hard to embrace our full emotions lest we crack, I laid my body alongside Dad's agony, as if to take some of it away, hiding my tears in his side, letting him rub my back and comfort me as he had always done; 'never stop being a parent,' his father's words; here helpless against his advancing disease, still being my dad. When he needed us desperately, it filled me with an overwhelming sense of love to care for him so tenderly; to return the love he had so generously given us. 'Showing up is 90 percent of the job' ... and we did.

"In his final moment, to his grandsons, he found the strength to say, 'Oh my God, I wish I could know you better ... what a beautiful family.' He saw being alive as a blessing until his final breath. He held on to his sweet life so dearly. And he taught me the value of being alive."

[Editor's note: Read more about Eric in "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct.]

Please send *CCT* your news by email or by using the online webform college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Classmates would be happy to learn about your life journey.

1970

Leo Kailas
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First, a note from **Ed Rutan,** whom I have not heard from in many years: "Having retired in 2013 after a 40-year legal career, the last 10 as the city attorney for Salt Lake City, I have spent much of the last 10 years becoming a Civil War historian. My second book, *High-Bounty Men in the Army of the Potomac: Reclaiming Their Honor,* was recently published. (I self-published my first book, *'If I Have Got to Go and Fight, I Am Willing': A Union Regiment Forged in the Petersburg Campaign,* a history of the 179th New York Volunteers.) I have also successfully advocated for improved mental health services in our local community (Summit County, Utah), but unfortunately unsuccessfully for preventing gun violence in Utah. (The Utah State Legislature is about as pro-gun as they come.)

"My wife of 52 years, Lynne, and I continue to enjoy traveling. Last year's trip was to Slovenia, Croatia and Amsterdam, with the Galapagos Islands scheduled for this year."

William Bibbo wrote for the first time, about starting out as an Engineering student and moving to the College. He related an interesting story about passing the swim test, which I am not permitted to repeat.

My very dear friend **David Lehman** GSAS'78, whom I constantly sing the praises of, reports: "Innisfree, edited by Greg McBride, has published a (brief) portfolio of my poems going back to my first published volume, in 1986 (online at bit.ly/4fX3yNU). I hope you enjoy them."

I apologize for the brevity of these notes but I have been remarkably busy at work despite my plan to slow down.

1971

Lew Preschel
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Our class has not provided any news this cycle. However, it is great when we stay in touch. This is our community on paper. Let classmates know how you are doing as a septuagenarian. Please support your Columbia College alumni column. Be well and safe.

1972

Paul Appelbaum
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We start this time with a two-fer. **Jamie Katz,** once the editor of this distinguished publication, sent a note with "a nice bit of class news I read in the monthly Columbia News email from the Office of Public Affairs: **'Michael Gerrard,** Andrew Sabin Professor of Professional Practice at Columbia Law, Professor of Professional Practice at Columbia Climate, and Director of Sabin Center for Climate Change Law, will receive the American Bar Association Lifetime Achievement Award in Environmental, Energy, or Resources Law and Policy at the fall conference of the ABA Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources' (online at bit.ly/3YYKZ6g)."

Jamie noted that he had worked with Mike when he was press secretary for the '72 McGovern-Shriver presidential campaign at its Illinois headquarters in Chicago. "It was a ripe time to dip one's toes in the muddy river of urban machine politics — memorably described in Mike Royko's *Boss: Mayor Richard J. Daley of Chicago,*" Jamie writes.

As for Jamie himself, as many of you undoubtedly saw, "My own recent wanderings took me to the musically rich world of Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Ellen Reid '05, published in the Fall 2024 issue of *CCT*: online at bit.ly/3MFVRiD."

And as that piece noted, Jamie is working with public radio producer Aaron Cohen on the fourth season of the award-winning podcast Embrace Everything: The World of Gustav Mahler.

Steven Hirschfeld VPS'83 maintains an active schedule with his work at the National Institutes of Health, the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and in the private sector, "all directed to designing, implementing and conducting high-quality clinical research and training others in the field."

And as he aptly added, "John Lennon captured what seemed an eternal sentiment with his line 'I read the news today, oh boy.'"

And on a more relaxed note, **Emilio Carrillo** retired as clinical emeritus professor of medicine at Weill Cornell. He's looking forward to "time to enjoy the family, write and support The Latino Medical Student Association."

One of the benefits I value of being a member of the National Academy of Medicine is the opportunity to serve on its committees (which include non-member experts). I'm currently a member of a committee looking at deaths in custody, which disproportionately affect disadvantaged groups, with an eye toward improving the evaluation of such deaths by forensic pathologists. Their findings about the cause and manner of death often determine whether abusive behavior by law enforcement and correctional officers gets identified and punished. I really enjoy opportunities like this to try to do some good in the world while learning a great deal about critical policy issues from the people who come to meet with us.

Doing something interesting these days? Tell us about it.

1973

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No news this time. I hope to hear from you — surely some of you are taking or planning exciting trips, or have personal, family or work updates to share!

1974

Fred Bremer
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Few of us give enough thought to how lucky we were to be born during the Baby Boom (1946–64). Unlike the Greatest Generation (born 1901–27), we didn't have to suffer the hardships of the Great Depression or rush off to serve during WWII. Nor did we have the restrictions of a society that praised conformity and work ethic, as was the case for the Silent Generation (born 1928–45). In reaction to this confining lifestyle, we developed a counter-culture world where we were free to have long hair and beards, and wear "hippie garb." We felt liberated to protest government actions (like the Vietnam War), defy our parents' expectations and emphasize the rights of individuals. We felt free to follow our own beliefs and celebrate "sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll" (with a little streaking thrown in to show we weren't hampered by repressive societal taboos).

Emilio Carrillo '72 retired as clinical emeritus professor of medicine at Weill Cornell and is looking forward to having time to enjoy his family and write.

A half-century later, it will take a lot of introspection to assess if those times during the '70s have maintained their influence. Our careers as law partners, doctors at big hospitals, and at major corporations might cast doubt, but we can't ignore the advancement *toward* equality of women, minority groups, people with disabilities and gay people offers hope. Maybe this is our new expression of counter-culture.

There was a post on Facebook a while back from **Albie Hecht:** "So proud and excited to see tickets on sale to my first feature directorial effort: *Ryan's World the Movie: Titan Universe Adventure* (which hit theaters last August)." This was far from the first movie Albie has produced. Among those are *The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie, The Rugrats Movie* and the Oscar-nominated animated feature *Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius.* His three-decade career in film and television has included being president of film and television for Nickelodeon and president of Spike TV. Albie is now the chief content officer of PocketWatch, where he works to turn young stars on YouTube into global franchises.

We recently heard from **Tobias Nascimento** BUS'77. After the Business School he became a partner in the family import-export business (Nanstars, in midtown Manhattan). Tobias says he now spends most of his time teaching Portuguese at the New School and FIT. He also is doing Portuguese voiceovers for commercials that major companies (such as Gillette and American Airlines) broadcast in Brazil. Tobias and his wife, Sue, have one daughter and two grandchildren (5.5 and 2).

Reports of new grandchildren seem to have slowed recently. However, we did hear from **Larry Silverman** (a semi-retired lawyer who splits his time between Manhattan and Amagansett), who is beaming with joy since the arrival of Miles Joseph Silverman last August. Miles is the firstborn of Jacob (Larry's firstborn). Jacob does tech work in Toronto. Larry and his wife, Ashley, are racking up many frequent flyer miles.

While writing his English Ph.D. thesis on the Protestant Reformation, **Bryan Berry** (who lives in Joliet, Ill.) tells us he became interested in revolutions and how they shaped current thinking. This has led him to work on a book that discusses the impact of three major revolutions: the Protestant schism from Catholicism, the French Revolution and the Bolshevik Revolution. Bryan says progress on his writing has been hindered by his enjoyment of the research material he is reading.

There are worse problems we can face in retirement than a passion to keep learning!

A lot of classmates live in the Southeast, and many were undoubt-

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edly affected by Hurricanes Helene and Milton. At the time I am writing this column, it is too difficult to reach many of these folks. Stay tuned for future columns to hear how they fared. If you have any information, please send me contact info on these buddies — including many whom I hope escaped disaster.

There you have it. Classmates making movies and writing books. Others changing careers and celebrating new grandchildren. All following their own path, but hopefully finding a little time to still remember those fond days of "sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll."

1975

REUNION 2025
MAY 29–31

Robert D. Katz
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I don't have a lot of news from the class this time, but there certainly are important developments on campus. President Minouche Shafik resigned last August after getting targeted from both directions and perhaps was a little lost at how to handle the unfortunate situation last spring. Dr. Katrina Armstrong, leader of the Columbia University Irving Medical Center, was named interim president and apparently has figured out some means of controlling the protests and antisemitic incidents on campus. While the campus situation is not resolved, Armstrong has traveled from Washington Heights and taken control of the campus on Morningside Heights.

At press time, under her order, all Columbia affiliates have access to the Morningside campus. Columbia University ID holders can request campus access for guests, and campus entry points remain limited. It seems like a far cry from the "security" that existed in our day, when no ID was necessary and almost anyone could gain access to the campus, the academic buildings and even the dormitories by just waving to the guard. It seems like strong but necessary medicine, and I am hopeful that the situation will continue to improve.

On a personal note, I had lunch with Michael Lombardi '74, BUS'76 and a camera-shy individual who was in town from Canada in February. I hadn't seen Michael since my first wedding in 1978. He looked pretty much the same, although slightly grayer. I am also back in touch with **Michael Hirsh,** whom I understand is in the process of retiring, although he seems to be substituting administrative positions at UMass Memorial Medical Center for days and nights in the OR.

Moses Luski, from North Carolina, appears to be still practicing law and informs us that his daughter Emily Terenyi BC'08 has taken up residence in Austria.

Similarly, Dr. **Stewart Lazow** DM'79, a now-retired dentist, and I connected over my father's attendance at the School of Dental and Oral Surgery way back when, and Stewart's more recent matriculation there. The name of the school has been changed from SDOS to the School of Dental Medicine, now that there is more for a dentist to do than drill and fill.

That's about it for this issue, as the responses to my request for news were underwhelming. Please send us some interesting morsels for the next issue. Thank you very much, and have a great winter and spring.

1976

Ken Howitt
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Going classical today for this column. I rediscovered a terrific Irish classical composer who invented the Nocturne form — John Field. Supposedly, his work inspired Chopin to create his Nocturnes. Very calming and perfect for updating classmates.

For the first time in years, I missed Homecoming. Instead, I spent the weekend biking around Columbia County, N.Y., on the Harlem Valley Rail Trail, created from a railroad route. The foliage and the trip were great, and Millerton, N.Y., is a fun town with a great diner. My girlfriend and I biked more than 50 miles during the weekend.

Previously, my girlfriend gave me a 70th-birthday trip that included six days in and around Salzburg, covering 250 km through the lake region. That trip used an e-bike and was a fantastic experience. We rode alone, but the company moved our luggage daily to the next hotel. The trip concluded with four nights in Vienna. Amazing!

CC'76 classmates, left to right, Kevin Berry, Jim Bruno, Jim Berquist, Jim Tryforos, Mark Joseph and Mike Yeager at Columbia's annual football dinner, held this past year on Oct. 25.

The Class of 1976 was well represented at Homecoming, as you can see from the picture above. A group of gridiron veterans (who all look young enough to still suit up) attended the annual football dinner the Friday prior to the Homecoming game. The '76ers in attendance were **Kevin Berry, Jim Bruno, Jim Berquist, Jim Tryforos, Mark Joseph** and **Mike Yeager.**

Speaking of traveling and biking, **Gordon Kit** checked in: "I continue to plan cycling trips around the world; I recently completed a week of cycling in Tuscany and a week of cycling in Sardinia. Next up, cycling in Thailand in February." Gordon also let me know that the annual Kit Noir Film Festival will no longer be held. The festival began in 2018 but had been delayed by a year with Manhattanville construction delays. Then, a blizzard caused a few cancellations the next year. Then, the pandemic, which delayed another couple of years. So the 2023 festival was the fourth and last, unfortunately. Gordon will let me know when there is a new home (it used to be held at Columbia), and I will pass it along through emails and this column. Gordon also is establishing a fellowship at UC Berkeley (his parents' graduate school alma mater) in their memory for advanced studies in animal virology. Also on the planning board are endowments — a fellowship for a foreign film production and for a law center.

Another traveler is **Walter Rivera,** who made a trip to Spain last year. Others simply checked in: **Reynold Verret, Larry Lubka, Ken Tamashiro** and **Terry Corrigan.** These check-ins keep me going. It is great to hear from all of you, and these emails ask incisive questions that I always answer to the best of my ability. More importantly, some '76ers send address updates that allow me to expand the class list and keep us all close. Ken T. in particular asked about plans for the 50th reunion in June 2026. Please get in touch if you are interested in preliminary plans and I will pass them along and get you on the Reunion Committee. The more the merrier!

Campus access is definitely different these days due to increased security. To attend one event on campus, I received an email with a QR code, but I also have a "Community ID" that prior to recent times would get me in most places. When I went to the College Walk gate, I showed both my QR code and the ID and the guard suggested that I try the ID first. It worked! When I told that story to an old KCR friend, his response was, "Do you think Columbia could have any security system that would keep Ken Howitt off campus?"

Hasan Bazari, in Boston, sent this: "I am laying low mainly to focus on family. We now have a grandson and are enjoying life knowing that he will be in college in about 17 years."

John Connell announced that his fourth grandson arrived in Octo-

ber. (I welcomed my first grandson last April.)

Charles Martin checked in: "Like many people in the class, the seconds are ticking down to a milestone birthday. Ignoring that, I prefer to dwell on the kind reception that has been given my latest crime novel, *Rented Grave*. Kirkus called it 'an atmospheric crime story savvily blending the sleek modernity of Hong Kong with China's tumultuous past.' I'll be doing the mystery/suspense podcast circuit, and am at work on the sequel, which should be out in 2025."

Former *CCT* class correspondent **Clyde Moneyhun** sent this update: "I got married last summer. Yes, Tracey Greenwood actually agreed to marry me, and she's smart and funny and beautiful and kind. I'm as surprised as anybody, and very happy. We're sprucing up a 1930s Tudor Revival cottage, planting a garden and enjoying being empty nesters. Also, I finally retired (sort of). It's a phased retirement at Boise State University, with about half the teaching, half the committee work and half the anxiety across the next three years until I cut the cord completely. In reality, the school agreed to pile all the work into the Fall semester, so that I have Spring and Summer away to translate (mostly contemporary Catalan-language poetry) and spend weeks and months at a time in Spain."

From **Patrick Bergin:** "Obviously many of us are recent celebrants of the 70th. I got an invitation to **Bill Strauss'** 70th birthday party in Seattle about a year and a half ago. We rowed crew together freshman year at Columbia and had not seen each other for quite a few years but he just decided I was important to invite, and it was great getting back together with him and his wife, Catherine. Many ancient memories were dredged, almost all of them highly amusing! I have some pictures with the two of us at that event and also at a more recent meeting in Huntington Beach, Calif. My wife, Andrea, and I recently returned from a few weeks in Portugal and Spain. We did quite a bit of e-biking. Sure helped with navigating those hills in Lisbon and Porto!"

So, the Nocturnes have wound down and this column came together quite nicely — families expanding, adventures continuing and new memories keep coming in as we all return to the 70s (doesn't sound so bad when it's put it that way!).

Please mark your calendars for June 2026 and plan to attend the 50th reunion!

SUBMIT A CLASS NOTES PHOTO

- Photos must feature at least two College alumni.
- All photos must be submitted using the online webform **college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.**
- Photos that do not meet the size parameters for print will run online.

1977

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For a second issue, alas, I do not have enough news for a column. Hope springs eternal, or at least it springs for the next issue. As readers have seen, the column is open to your news as a graduate, your memories as a former student and your thoughts as a member of the CC community.

1978

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I learned that you do not appreciate your opinions being channeled. When I suggested that we revert to a bit more traditional "family and travel" content in this column, many of you were offended and said you were boycotting the issue. An overreaction, perhaps, but given the stakes these days, I appreciate the spirit. I won't be doing that again. Swing away!

Fellow Connecticut resident **Robert Muirhead** played along, "Contributing to the non-political, uncontroversial column you seek, my wife, Susan, and I celebrated our 45th wedding anniversary in style with an RV trip from bucolic Manchester, Conn., to the Mighty 5 National Parks in Southern Utah. I had been several times but had long planned for the day I could share the experience with her. Overall, we took in nine National Parks, numerous state parks and several national forests and monuments. A terrific time!

"Outside of missing the grandkids, I could have continued several more weeks than the month we took. Our next trip? A transatlantic cruise terminating in London, where I sit at The British Museum and stare at the Babylonian bas reliefs, then up to the Borderlands to visit a shirt-tail cousin and meet my brother and his wife for a hiking tour of Scotland.

"I'm in occasional touch with my old roommate, **Al McGovern SEAS'78,** who made the leap from the Chicago area to greater Metro Denver (my high school stomping grounds) a while back. Full credit to him for reaching out every so often, most recently with some old pics he came across from our graduation. God, was I ever really that young?"

Ambassador **Chris Dell** writes, "Greetings from Lisbon, where I seem to be spending more and more time. But perhaps not for long. My wife, Tedi, has been signed as the USAID mission director in Yerevan, Armenia, so we'll move there this year. Better still, she will leave Kyiv early for her new position. All assuming the U.S. elections turn out OK and don't lead to Project 2025.

"See that, Matt? I turned the personal into the political for you.

"I had a few brushes with mortality over the summer, but on further testing, I seem to have dodged the bullet again, and the dance goes on for now. I am hoping to get back to Australia this year for business and to explore it further, as well. I imagine all kinds of jaunts in the offing from Yerevan: Georgia, Türkiye and more!

"Enjoyed visiting with **Nick Serwer** in Maine in late September before he returned to Singapore."

Bob Crochelt is "enjoying retirement after a challenging career in rural surgery. My wife, Donna, is an ob/gyn. I realized my lifelong dream of living in California, close to the Mendocino Coast. The weather is at least tolerable, better than many places. I loved hearing from Robbie Klapper '79. I hope we connect in person someday. I still hope to travel to Italy and Malta and visit a long-term friend in Portugal."

"As I noted in the last issue, after a summer spent traveling to and from, we enjoyed autumn in NYC before wintering in Florida," notes **Marvin Siegfried.**

"I would be remiss if I did not put in my two cents about recent events on campus. As I write this, Columbia has reportedly just displayed more overt antisemitism, barring Israeli professor Shai Davidi from the main campus while allowing Johannah King-Slutzky, a Columbia doctoral student who was an active anti-Israel protester, to instruct a Contemporary Civilization class. Why is this being allowed to happen?

"As I said in a previous column, our class must show our displeasure by making our 50th anniversary gift to Hillel and other campus religious organizations rather than to the University. As a Jewish alum, I have never been so disappointed in our school's behavior on this topic and its overt antisemitism.

"On a happier note, I am looking forward to visiting Israel and maybe Prague for our wedding anniversary, and I enjoyed watching the Mets this past fall."

Tom Bisdale, an executive at Hearst in New Jersey, is "thoroughly enjoying time with our 2-year-old granddaughter, who is every bit as much a spitfire as her mother was. Ah, sweet turnabout. We are recently back from a week in Montreal on a biannual trip with our Columbia Fellas (Larry Lubka '76, Brent Rosenthal '77, Jay Goldberg '77 and Cyndy Robinson Goldberg BC'77, and Rhonda Lubka BC'77, VPS'81).

"On the home front, change is in the air as our house of 34 years is under contract for sale, and it looks like we are going back to where we started more than 40 years ago, renting an apartment in Hackensack, N.J. The biggest challenge is culling 50 years of stuff.

"We have been staying in touch with a lot of '78ers, including **Mark Blackman** and his wife, Leslie Sutton-Smith. I am also in touch with his brother **Gary Blackman,** as well as **Rob Freeberg** and **Fred Rosenstein.**"

"I am mostly retired from a career in technology and innovation

management consulting," writes the irrepressible **Mitch Halpern.**

"How I got there from a Ph.D. in chemistry is a story in and of itself. Still happily married to the wonderful and tolerant Amy Friedman BC'77 and living in the St. Louis suburb of Chesterfield. Battling several serious health issues with my usual sense of humor mostly intact.

"Staying in touch with **Larry Friedman,** who is pretty much a neighbor. Also, via Facebook with many others, including Lori Gold BC'78, Lesa Rader BC'78, Clare Tse BC'78, **Rob Blank, Mike Wilhite, Chris Dell** and **Chuck Callan.**"

Bennett Caplan sends news from Washington, D.C.: "For many years I have run a trade association of spirits and wine producers from around the world and created a database business of national alcohol regulations and trade agreements. I have stepped down from the trade association to focus on the database business. As I spend most of my time selling subscriptions, the education I got at Columbia selling hot dogs at football games is finally coming in handy!

"I have been fortunate — my wife, Ann (whom I met at the Fletcher School), my son, Nate, and my daughter, Allison '11, are all doing well. Every year, we try to get up to Robert K. Kraft Field for at least one football game to cheer on the team and see if I can resist the temptation of saying, 'Get your tube steaks — or is it subscriptions? — here!'"

Please go to this column online at college.columbia.edu/cct to read notes from **Steven Morris, Victor Leong, Paul Phillips** and **Dan Meltz.**

My wife, Marian Chertow BC'77, and I recently returned from a 10-day trip to Turkey, where we sailed on the Aegean, rode 150 miles on bikes, explored ancient cities and ate great food. It makes you wonder if all these tales of retirement and travel make good sense. There are no grandkids yet, but our daughters are doing well. Budderfly, the energy savings company started six years ago when I left politics and the City of New Haven, is now up to 300 people and manages almost $200 million worth of "energy as a service" business, mainly for restaurants.

I have no comment on the Yankees. I'm writing this as the election is about to take place, so good luck to the world as America makes its choice! I'll talk to you in the summer.

1979

Robert C. Klapper
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This Columbia thought comes from the world of television, where practicing as an orthopedic surgeon here in Hollywood for the last 35 years has certainly been a joyride, taking care of the many folks who are both in front of and behind the camera.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of *Saturday Night Live,* which is significant for us as a class because the 50 years and the launch in October 1975 represents the first month of our freshman year, and I, like many of you, remember vividly that first episode, congregating in the TV lounge (who even knows if that exists anymore in the modern dormitory?) as we watched George Carlin host that show. The significance to me is the founding members of *SNL* — the Not Ready for Prime-Time Players — with their skits about Coneheads, the Weekend Update and Killer Bees. If you tapped me on my shoulder when I was a freshman, living that tortured pre-med life in that concrete beehive known as Carman Hall, I would never have imagined that one of those actors would be lying on my operating room table one day. Getting to know this actor has been a true delight. What a journey this has been!

This is how we began our freshman year. It has all beautifully continued for me because at the beginning of our senior year was the launch of one of the greatest comedies on television, *Taxi.*

Like many of you, I lived my freshman year at Carman, my sophomore year at Hartley, my junior year at John Jay and then culminating in my senior year at the Taj Mahal known as Furnald. The connection between then and now has always been a fascination to me, which is what led me to volunteer for this job at *CCT* to begin with. With that in mind, I'd love to share another recent Columbia connection in my life.

Beginning our senior year, while many of you (particularly my pre-med colleagues) were joyous in beginning a playful final year at the College, I was unfortunately trapped in my dorm room for a marathon of studying for the MCAT in October with my Kaplan MCAT books to be memorized and the millions of questions to test myself. I truly would not answer my door when anyone knocked. I ate ramen noodles "illegally" on a hot plate and told my friends who were banging at the door, "Go away; I'll see you in October."

I did allow myself one study break, which was to go to the TV lounge to watch the new show captivating America, the sitcom *Taxi.* I didn't miss an episode because truly it was therapy to watch Danny DeVito, Tony Danza and Marilu Henner cavort. Studying for the MCAT was a lonely experience, but necessary to lock myself up that way, and that show was a godsend.

Now fast forward to 2023, 45 years later. Danza and Henner have a one-man and one-woman show, respectively, where they sing and dance in Las Vegas acts they created individually. I had the pleasure of doing knee surgery on Danza and hip surgery on Henner. When their shows came to Los Angeles, each of them called me to ask if I would come to see them sing and dance in their unique solo performances. Danza's show was in the beginning of the year and Henner's was toward the end of the year. Each of them, midway through their performances, stopped to tell the audience how grateful they were to be able to dance again pain free because their surgeon, "who is present in the audience tonight," gave them this gift of an operation.

All I could think about was 45 years before, sitting in the TV lounge at Furnald watching these two actors making me laugh in the midst of my torture chamber pre-med experience, and it was as if an angel came out of the sky to tap me on the shoulder and say, "Keep studying because these two talented folks you are watching right now will one day be your patients because of what you are doing in your tiny little dorm room with the door closed."

Roar, lion, roar!

At the JW Marriott Marco Island (Fla.) Beach Resort on Nov. 8 for a Fiji reunion were, left to right, Chris Tague SEAS'82, Brian Krisberg '81, George Watson '80, Kevin Fay '81, Louis Napoli '83, Mike Kinsella '81, Charles "Chick" Nostrand '81 and Ed Klees '81.

1980

REUNION 2025
MAY 29–31

Michael C. Brown
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The Class of '80 was well represented at Homecoming. We kicked off the weekend with a wonderful dinner at Greywind, with **Shawn FitzGerald** and his wife, Jolyne Caruso-FitzGerald BC'81; **Joe Ciulla;** and **Mario Biaggi.** Joe was in great form with amazing stories from our playing days, and it seems that we get better with every passing year. I want to shout out Shawn for his play by play

and insights as the Lions football analyst. He does a great job.

We had the opportunity to catch up with **Ray Stukes** at Homecoming, and after 44 years it was great to see him back at Wien Stadium. Ray recently retired from a long and successful career in the aerospace industry in Atlanta, where he raised his family and coached softball for many years. He was looking forward to our football golf outing and taking in a baseball game on the southern trip.

Steve McCarthy SEAS'80 joined us for Homecoming as well and kept an eye on **Dave Cromwick SEAS'80**, who joined us from Lowell, Mass., where he raised his family. Steve spent 37 years in the aerospace and defense industry and recently retired. It was wonderful to reminisce about our time in the defensive backfield!

As mentioned previously, Dave was the catalyst behind getting Ray and Steve to a game. Recently retired from the medical tech industry, Dave enjoyed a few glasses of champagne and good wine and is looking forward to more Lions games.

Go to this column at college.columbia.edu/cct to see a photo.

Brian O'Hagan joined us for dinner and pointed out the tremendous growth of Jersey Mike's, where he has been a senior executive for two decades. I remember getting subs, or grinders, in Point Pleasant, N.J., when I was a kid, so watching Jersey Mike's go from 100 to more than 3,000 locations has been wonderful. Kudos to Brian for its success.

A note of congratulations to super lawyer and friend **Bruce Paulsen** on his recent wedding to Debbra McAllister. We wish you all the best on your journey together!

1981

Dan Albohn, Kevin Costa and Rich Gentile
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Alan Lessoff recalls Dean Peter Pouncey, and **George Ochoa**'s new book:

Alan Lessoff sends recollections of Peter Pouncey GSAS '69, the widely admired Columbia College dean and classical scholar who later became president of Amherst College, and who died in May 2023. Largely inspired by Pouncey, Alan became a professor himself. He's now University Professor of History at Illinois State University, where he specializes in U.S. and comparative urban history. Alan writes:

"After Peter Pouncey died, so many people had memories to offer that I was shy about adding my own until encouraged to do so by my Carman roommate, **Dan Albohn.** Many of the remembrances I read had to do with Pouncey's influence as dean in rejuvenating and redirecting the College in the aftermath of Columbia's turmoil of the late 1960s and early 1970s. I came to know him in a quieter way, when he was a professor in the years between his deanship and his presidency at Amherst. In 1977–78, he was the guest at one of the dinners the Dean's Office held for the freshmen John Jay Scholars. Most of the guests were celebrated New Yorkers of one sort or other, but Pouncey made the strongest impression — he was a model not just of learning but also of a belief in learning.

"Afterward, I visited him off and on in his Hamilton office, grand and wooden and book-lined, like the things I hoped to talk about. Pouncey became a model mentor. Later, I learned for myself what it means for a professor to set things aside for a half-hour or 45 minutes for a student who has come just to talk, which made me appreciate the time he took with me all the more. To a young American of the 1970s whose knowledge of England came from novels and television, he seemed the archetype of an English professor (that is, a professor from England), spare in appearance and wry in tone. He even had horn-rimmed glasses and a tweed sport coat.

"I came from a marginal, lower middle-class background in New Bedford, Mass., which at the time embodied the sullen decay of mid-century industrial New England. I was visibly insecure about my lack of urbane sophistication and the gaps in my knowledge and in my ability to express myself. Without being demonstrative about it, Pouncey would let students see hints of his own struggles in work and life and take encouragement from his example. He recounted his quite different background. The child of a British official in China amid the Japanese invasion of the 1930s, he had a tumultuous start. He made clear that at different times in his youth he had felt out of place; this was a lesson one took, for instance, from his way of relating his early experience studying to be a Jesuit. To him, coming to New York meant finding a place. As I'm writing this, I'm holding my copy, which I dated 1979, of Willie Morris' 1967 memoir, *North Toward Home,* a book Pouncey identified with and recommended to me as a new New Yorker. (Though all three of us, including Morris, later moved on from New York.) He insisted — I can still hear him — that I shouldn't worry about how well others talked, but I should instead trust my perceptions of what they had to say. That's advice I've repeated to my students many times.

"Eventually, I took Pouncey's popular upper-level course on Greek historical thought, which provided an expert's way of looking at a number of our Literature Humanities books, along with authors such as Plutarch, whom I hadn't read before. (All of this was in translation, to be sure.) The heart of the course was Thucydides, on whom Pouncey was a renowned expert. Pouncey undercut any inclination we might have taken from Lit Hum to see Thucydides as the matter-of-fact counterpart to a fanciful Herodotus (also a simplification, as we learned). He took us through the many ways Thucydides used juxtaposition, repetition, emphasis and dramatized speech to create effects and build his story. It was a powerful encounter with the truism that to work, history has to be literature.

"I used to write historical articles for *Spectator*. In 1980, when Pouncey's wonderful book, *The Necessities of War: A Study of Thucydides' Pessimism,* came out, the editors gave me a full page to review it. Already knowing the argument, I went step by step through the book and explained the image of Thucydides it presented and the understanding of historical rhetoric that it conveyed. The review ended with comments about how Pouncey was writing about our own troubled times as well as about the Peloponnesian War. I knew that from conversations with him and so knew where to look for contemporary subthemes in the book. Pouncey inscribed my copy to 'an extraordinarily fair critic.' He remarked that not all reviewers actually read a book through and address themselves to it. That comment stayed in the front of my mind when writing reviews through the years, and also when I was a journal editor who had the final say over reviews by others. [Read Alan's review, "Peloponnesian pessimism," in the *Spectator* Archives for Nov. 26, 1980: online at bit.ly/4fKrVyW.]

"Along with Jim Shenton '49, GSAS'54, Pouncey encouraged me to pursue a Kellett Fellowship to Cambridge for 1981–83, another opportunity he opened up for me. There are only a few teachers whom I hear in my head as I am teaching or working with students, and Pouncey is one of them. This is all a way of saying that he lived by his principles and embodied ideals that the College — through all its ups and downs — has tried to stand for."

At Homecoming on Oct. 26 were, left to right, Shane Triano SEAS'81, Dave Huemer '81, Kevin Costa '81, Rich Gentile '81 and Dan Albohn '81.

George Ochoa writes, "It has been a lifelong dream to have a novel published. Recently, my dream came true. My first published novel, the thriller *Stranger Still*, is

now available. Appropriately for this column, it is set at Columbia. The main character, Paul Inster, is a brilliant, insane English major at the College with a taste for knives. I first conceived of Paul when I was an English major at Columbia in 1979, and it has taken 45 years for his story to make it into print. Better late than never."

1982

Joseph A. Cabrera
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Gentlemen, greetings. As I was corresponding with you in October, our Lions football team beat Princeton at home and was 3–1. It is so enjoyable to watch them perform at such a high level for the excellent head coach, Jon Poppe. We now have an interim University president, Dr. Katrina Armstrong, and I hear she has been doing a great job.

Checking in and setting a good example for all of us is **Nobuhisa Ishizuka** LAW'86. "I'm still teaching and running a center at the Law School, having retired as a partner of Skadden seven years ago. I recently termed off as a chair and president of the board of USRowing and have been appointed as a strategic advisor to World Rowing and as an independent director of USA Archery (Columbia has one of the premier college programs in the United States). Other than that, keeping busy with various other nonprofit board work and family. One grandson, and a granddaughter on the way!"

Michael Tubridy writes, "I had the pleasure of collaborating with my *Spectator* friend **Rob Polner** on *An Irish Passion for Justice: The Life of Rebel New York Attorney Paul O'Dwyer*. This biography of O'Dwyer, a New York attorney, politician and activist, was published last May. Carrying with him to America the ideals of the revolutionary Ireland of his youth, O'Dwyer began his law practice in the 1930s with a client list that included labor leaders and political dissidents. But by the late 1950s he had become a godfather to New York City's Democratic Reform movement of the late 1950s. Throughout his six-decade career, O'Dwyer battled in the courtrooms and on the barricades for free speech, Irish Republicanism, Zionism, civil rights for African Americans, an end to the Vietnam War and — walking with a cane in his 80s — he marched in solidarity with the Irish Lesbian and Gay Organization in the 1991 St. Patrick's Day Parade. Rob and I also explored the close relationship between O'Dwyer and his nephew Frank Durkan '51, a lawyer who matched him in zealous advocacy for underdogs.

"Our thanks to CU's Oral History Archives for providing (at the height of the pandemic) its valuable interviews with O'Dwyer; his oldest brother, Bill (the city's mayor after WWII); and key colleagues and friends."

Brian Krisberg '81 (center) celebrated a birdie with Joseph Cabrera '82 (left) and NFL Hall of Famer Jonathan Ogden on Sept. 12 at the Joe Namath Charitable Foundation Golf Tournament in Bethpage, N.Y.

Will Korn reports, "After a wonderful and productive 30-year career in interventional radiology, I have retired. I am devoting myself to my photography hobby (williamkornphotography.com), as well as travel and fitness. I volunteer at our local food pantry, our synagogue and the Boston Camera Club. My wife, Karen Raphaelson Korn BC'84, has yet to retire but we still find the time to travel and enjoy together the fruits of our many years of hard work. Our adult sons work in politics and sports journalism."

Greetings from **Greg Burke** JRN'83. After spending most of his career as a foreign correspondent based in Rome, which also included a period in the Vatican as spokesman for Pope Francis, Greg is back in the U.S. for a year. He recently began a fellowship in the Stanford Distinguished Careers Institute, where he has already connected with Columbia classmates from both the College and the Journalism School. Greg has also been named to the board of Mary's Meals USA, a charity that feeds nearly 2.5 million children every day in some of the poorest countries in the world.

Carlo Kostka SIPA'84, who is based in Italy, writes, "I am the general counsel for an Italian rail infrastructure company and am focused on bringing high-speed rail (and other rail) construction and maintenance to the North American market. We recently acquired a company in Canada and in the U.S. and are expanding our footprint. So, lots to do!"

Skip Parker BUS'91 is still working! He and his wife, Harriet, recently affiliated with Greenwich Wealth Management, are $2.5-billion registered investment advisers. Skip maintains an active volunteer schedule as senior warden of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Riverside, Conn., and as a three-term member of the Greenwich Harbor Management Commission. He continues to sing in four vocal groups, including the Columbia Alumni Singers.

Exciting news from **John Scribner** (johnscribner-artist.com), who frequently exhibits his surrealist painting and sculpture in the Hudson Valley and NYC. He had a one-man show in December at The National Arts Club on Gramercy Park.

Jonathan Sweet noted, "A solid group is supporting the men's lacrosse club as a strong part of the College's history. This group has raised significant funds for the CU endowment to support this effort."

Tom O'Keefe shares, "After 32 years at the helm of Mercosur Consulting Group, I am stepping down in favor of a new endeavor, Indigenous ADR, based in Washington, D.C. We are focused on trying to facilitate consensus-building dialogue between natural resource extraction companies and affected Indigenous communities in order to prevent social conflict and violence. This has become especially important in the rush to secure critical minerals to facilitate the transition to a greener energy matrix."

Paul Riordan (pjredcoat@yahoo.com) sends regards: "Wishing everyone well and will reach out next time I visit New York. Go Lions!"

On Sept. 12, Brian Krisberg '81 and I played with NFL Hall of Fame offensive tackle Jonathan Ogden at the Joe Namath Charitable Foundation Golf Tournament in Bethpage, N.Y. On a hard par three at Bethpage, Brian had a natural birdie — amazing! See the nearby photo!

Look forward to hearing from you.

1983

Roy Pomerantz
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Greetings, classmates!

Dion Macellari: "Among the more interesting projects I've worked on lately is Ryan Murphy's *Monster* series for Netflix. For Season 2, *The Lyle and Erik Menendez Story*, I did reinterpretations of Erik Menendez's prison drawings, which can be seen in Episodes 9 and 10. During his time in prison Erik has become quite an accomplished painter, but copyright issues prevented us from duplicating any of his works. The challenge was to come up with drawings that look like things he could have done. And then do many of them in a very short timeframe.

"Another equally engaging recent project was the portrait I did of the iconic Sally Field as Jessie Buss, mother of Laker owner Jerry Buss. The painting featured in Season 2,

Episode 2 of HBO's *Winning Time: The Rise of the Lakers Dynasty*, about the Showtime Lakers of the '80s. For me, the challenge was all about capturing the expressiveness of Field's beautiful face while showing the effects of time. Somehow I achieved the right balance and after filming wrapped, one of the producers kept the painting.

"As for my personal artwork, [as I write] I'm preparing for two art shows in January 2025: One is at La Luz de Jesus Gallery in Los Angeles and the other is at Revolution Gallery in Buffalo. These will no doubt keep me very busy for the next few months.

"It's a brave new world out there, and I feel so lucky to be living in Echo Park, Los Angeles, surrounded by people I love, doing what I love, most of the time.

"Recently, I reconnected with **Matt Stedman** after a hiatus of too many years. Fortunately, we barely missed a beat. He and I rowed lightweight crew back in the prehistoric days when none of us expected to win many races but didn't even care. The joy and agony of rowing together was enough. Eric Alterman '84 is another old friend I speak to often. In the grungy heyday of 1970s NYC, he and I drifted into each other's orbits, ending up at the same middle school, then Stuyvesant H.S. and then Columbia. To this day we can effortlessly spend an hour or more on the phone bantering and solving many of the world's problems.

"Yet another Columbia relationship that has endured is with my friend Dr. **Jeff Thomas** VPS'88. Having decided in his senior year at the College to be a doctor, he went on to become a neurosurgeon. Since 1991 he has been on the cutting edge of micro catheter-based brain surgery performed through a tiny leg incision, without opening the skull. A few years back at the now-defunct Standard Hotel in downtown L.A., Jeff and I spent a marvelous evening eating, drinking, philosophizing and playing ping pong. Held my own with the first three, but lost every game of the pong. Ah well … it's the lovely moments that matter."

Jeff Thomas writes: "I only talk about the professional angle here, but it is interesting that I met **Dion Macellari** in Paris when we both went there for third year as part of Columbia's Reid Hall program, and it was in Paris that I decided to become a physician, which I undertook in earnest upon returning to Columbia as a senior (simultaneously finishing a B.A. in cultural anthropology and taking all of the pre-med classes in one fell swoop, under the kind watch of premed dean Patricia Geisler GSAS'79). My French was good enough at the time so that I ended up staying the whole year and attended the French University Number 7, Jussieu. That experience changed my life.

"I am a career cerebrovascular neurosurgeon with dual training in interventional neuroradiology. I was one of the first (and very few) such dual-trained neurosurgeons in the USA due to the novelty of these procedures (1991). Now I am starting a medical device company (Enkephalon) focused on stroke technology, including no-touch interventions (activated from outside the patient's body)."

Mark Lulka: "I work for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on coastal storm projects. I was honored to help carry the 1983 banner in last May's Alumni Parade of Classes at Class Day, in support of the CC'24 grads. I appreciate Columbia more each year, and I'm on campus for sports, music and the Mini-Core Courses, which I recommend. A guy from the January 2024 class is CC'54. Remarkable! For more than a year now I've been dealing with fan loyalty confusion issues when the Lions play Dartmouth's Big Green (where my son plays soccer). All the best."

Michael Levins: "I have done a poor job of remaining in contact with the Columbia community. In fact, I am only regularly in contact with two Columbia friends (**Michael Katz** BUS'85 and **Ron Fiske**). Here is a brief highlight of my life:

"Will have been married 35 years come May.

"Wife is from Boston. We met in NYC and currently reside in Fairfield County, Conn.

"Have three kids (two boys, one girl): Oldest child married with a son (first grandchild), second child recently engaged and youngest is in graduate school getting a master's in nursing.

"My wife and I ran a children's publishing company for 25 years, sold it five years ago and most recently founded an AI tech company servicing pharma manufacturers and medical device companies."

Peter Kronenberg SEAS'86: "I'm a software engineer in Northern Virginia. Currently on a project supporting NOAA and the National Weather Service but have done lots of commercial and government development."

Michael Hickins SOA'86: "I had a book published in 2023, a memoir, *The Silk Factory: Finding Threads of My Family's True Holocaust Story*. It's an unusual memoir in that it's, obviously, not my own recollections of the Holocaust, but rather a memoir of my journey of discovery of all the (sometimes major) events I learned about, which those in my family who did live through the Shoah never discussed, but whose trauma has filtered through to subsequent generations — including, sadly, my children.

"The book won a 2023 International Impact Book Award, in the 'Memoir, Personal Growth and Development, Travel' category.

"In other news, my best friend, **Michael Granville** GSAPP'92 (whom I met on the first day of Orientation), and I have now shared a partial season ticket plan at Yankee Stadium for 25 years."

Mark Momjian LAW'86 (who recently celebrated a decade teaching family law at Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law) participated in a public reading of St. Augustine's *Confessions* on the Feast Day of St. Augustine (Aug. 28), a tradition at Villanova to mark the first day of classes for undergraduates. Mark read excerpts from Book 2, including the famous passage about the stealing of the pears. "I read proudly from my copy of *Confessions* used in Lit Hum class in 1980 with the now-late, great Peter Awn. That class inspired me to take two more classes with Professor Awn, both in the religion department. He was a fabulous teacher."

Love to all! Everywhere!

1984

Dennis Klainberg
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On the heels of an amazing 40th reunion column (if I say so, myself), it seems that most of you are basking in either retirement or just plain exhausted ... but NOT Dr. **P. Langham Gleason**!

"I continue to love practicing general neurosurgery in Corpus Christi. Recently switched to employment with Christus Health, a Catholic health system, from America's largest for-profit healthcare company, HCA. These days it's just my youngest of six kids, my only son, Jerry, and me at home. I get a lot of satisfaction out of mentoring Columbia College students through the Odyssey Mentoring Program and recommend that you check it out (college.columbia.edu/alumni/odyssey-mentoring). I also mentor pre-med students at two local colleges and enjoy teaching them as they shadow me at the clinic and hospitals. I welcome visits from friends and classmates here on the Gulf Coast. Be sure to take care of your bodies and brains as we enter this third, and final, period."

Sage advice, indeed. So allow me to be the first to *kvell* (Yiddish for gush) over the amazing nuptials of our third child, Sydney Klainberg, to Charlie Robertson last summer. Both SUNY Geneseo honors grads, Charlie is a computer programmer specializing in fintech, and Sydney is completing a Ph.D. in school psychology at Penn State while working at a school near Harrisburg.

In my quest to stay young (while living up to my self-proclaimed embodiment of the class), I gratefully represented us all in the Parade of Decades at Convocation in August. This event — held under a tent near College Walk — benefited from an amazingly bright and warm evening, lots of banner-bearing alumni, a super-spirited incoming

SUBMIT A CLASS NOTES PHOTO

- Photos must feature at least two College alumni.
- All photos must be submitted using the online webform **college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.**
- Photos that do not meet the size parameters for print will run online.

Wright Anderson '84, David Wisen '84, Mike Saber '84, Ken Bernstein '84 and Mark Fried SEAS'84 posed in Red Rock National Park in Las Vegas on Nov. 9.

class, their very happy families, very positive vibes and great security.

Speaking of forever young, I bumped into our dean of students, Roger Lehecka '67, GSAS'74, who is back in his former position at Ol' Blue for a spell, and dear friend and fellow Sachem Adlar Garcia '95, back at the College as associate dean for alumni relations and engagement. (Belated thanks to Adlar for helping secure a home for a large number of Professor Karl-Ludwig Selig's multi-language "texts" at the library of his former employer, Miami Dade College.)

And just for good measure, I also helped out my beloved Columbia Marching Band — now called the Pep Band — under the wings of Athletics (should you wish to donate!) with my trusty trumpet at the first Ivy League home game, versus Princeton. The stands were packed, and we won!

Current events — especially what is happening in Israel, and with the Mets this past crazy summer — kept me in touch via text with **Michael B. Ackerman, Jim Weinstein, Mark Simon, Bernardo Burstein,** Roy Pomerantz '83, Jon White '85, Lisa Carnoy '89 and **Jon Abbott,** who was traveling in Asia as I write this and was thinking about our dearly departed classmate **Jacques Augustin.**

And speaking about PEREGRINATIONS … **Peregrine Beckman** with a last-minute update! "Recently took a fine trip through southern France with my wife, Elizabeth Leicester '87. While we were staying in Aix-en-Provence we took the little Fiat we'd rented to Château de Mille, the vineyard in Apt run by Larry Slaughter '85, who has been featured in *CCT*. [See a photo near the CC'87 column!] Larry and I had last hung out in Paris in '85, when I was doing a year abroad, so there were entire lives worth of catching up to do. But we toured the beautiful facility, tasted his excellent vintages, bought a few bottles and pledged to order a case once we got home.

"I recently finished editing *Ramona and the Ballad of Juan Diego,* a feature-length documentary about the Ramona phenomenon in southern California — look it up — and its related Native American history. We're sending it out to festivals now."

Hope to see you all soon at a Columbia basketball game. You'll find me with the band! ROAR, LION, ROAR!

1985

REUNION 2025
MAY 29–31

Jonathan White
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It was great to hear from so many of you for this issue. From **David Zapolsky,** "November marked my 25th year at Amazon, which seems unbelievable. Last year, I stepped in to lead our Global Public Policy team (on top of my responsibilities as general counsel), so I'm spending more time these days traveling to government capitals around the world, meeting with regulators and lawmakers to discuss policy issues that affect Amazon's many businesses. It's endlessly fascinating, and I'm still having a lot of fun in the role, so I've put off thoughts of retirement for the foreseeable future. On the family front, my son and his wife (Ian Zapolsky '15 and Sophie Mann '15) moved from San Francisco to Brooklyn, ironically just across Prospect Park from where I was living when I fled New York for Seattle 30 years ago. So NYC is back on our frequent destinations list, and I'm particularly looking forward to attending our first Columbia reunion together this spring. Hope to see everyone there."

Also got quick notes from fellow Gleecoers **Leslie Smartt, Tim Tomasi** and **John Phelan.**

Dr. **Jonathan Reich** SEAS'86 has been promoting his new biography of Charles Lindbergh, *A Convenient Villain: Charles A. Lindbergh's remarkable and controversial legacy preparing the U.S. for war.* He presented a lecture on Lindbergh's unappreciated contributions to medicine at a speech at the National Museum of Health and Medicine in Bethesda, Md., on Oct. 6. Interested alumni can watch the speech on Facebook (bit.ly/3O2iPB8). Jon looks forward to hearing feedback from classmates at aconvenientvillain@gmail.com.

Sam Chung wrote his first update in 40 years, from Seattle (Thank you, Sam!). "Greetings from the Upper Left. I can't believe it's been 40 years. Feels like yesterday that I walked into my first class in Hamilton Hall or was eating cookies in Professor Jim Shenton '49, GSAS'54's WWII seminar. After graduation and then law school, I settled in Seattle. After some years in civil litigation, I have been a superior court judge since 2014. Being a judge is challenging and often stressful, but I feel very fortunate and blessed. My wife, Sun, and I have one child, who started at Penn this past fall. My many talks about the virtues of Contemporary Civilization and the Core did not pan out. Oh, well. Go Lions!"

Philip Ivory is "director of the Tucson branch of The Writers Studio, which was founded in 1987 by Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Philip Schultz and offers ongoing writing workshops — both in person and online — designed to help students discover and nurture their own voices.

"For more than three decades The Writers Studio has been helping students become stronger, more resourceful writers, with more craft at their disposal, more knowledge of what makes a piece of creative writing satisfying to a reader, and more access to the full range of their emotions and imagination.

"I'm in the revision stage of an over-large dark fantasy novel I hope to finish soon, and am a caregiver for a sister who is neurodivergent.

"My longstanding interest in literature and creative writing was nurtured by such Columbia professors as Wallace Gray, Michael Seidel, Howard Schless and noted novelist Raymond Kennedy. I also benefited from participating in the inaugural year of Columbia's junior-year exchange program with Cambridge University, which provided me with deep exposure to medieval and Elizabethan literature as well as a chance to explore the United Kingdom."

As for me, I am pleased to report that both my wife, Allison BC'86, and I are back to "full strength." All of our 2024 surgeries were successful, no outstanding issues remain, and we enjoyed a trip to Madrid and environs (as well as some Mets playoff baseball) this past fall. I am completing my first year as the chair of the National Coffee Association, which has been a thoroughly enjoyable experience. And like all of you, thinking about the next steps in the journey.

Mark your calendars for our 40th reunion in late May. Details to follow.

1986

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Stanley Bernard PH'12 sent us a first-time update. "It was a busy year. I turned 60; my eldest daughter, Jacinthe, turned 30, and my youngest daughter, Nia, turned 20. My son, Noel, who is 22, graduated from Fordham, and I have a disabled 27-year-old son, Stanley the 3rd, or SEJ, who is at home. My wife,

Hyacintha, and I have been married 31 years, together 37. We live in Connecticut and frequent NYC, where Nia attends Marymount Manhattan. To celebrate the year's many occasions we recently took a Disney cruise to Mexico, the Cayman Islands and Jamaica, where we just missed Hurricane Beryl. I am an associate professor at Southern Connecticut State University and chair of the Department of Public Health. I am a two-time Columbia alum, getting a doctorate in public health in 2012 from the Mailman School of Public Health. After many years working in administration in nonprofits, in 2008 I decided to teach, got the doctorate, and here I am. I encourage other Black alumni to write in. I'd love to know what everyone is doing since we don't really get to keep up much."

Dan Traub wrote: "I live in Natick, Mass., with my wife, Evelyn Starr (Vassar '87). We celebrated our 30th anniversary last year with a trip to Portugal (with seemingly half the rest of the United States!). We have two kids: son (26) lives at home and writes about high school sports for *The Boston Globe* and daughter (24) at USC (California) in her second year studying for a doctor of physical therapy degree. I recently transitioned my business. I was a solo registered investment adviser with my own company, Tempo Advisors, and partnered with a larger firm, Montis Financial. Not retiring, yet. Just setting myself up for an easier retirement when the time comes, which could be five years from now, or 10. All depends on how much fun I'm having!"

1987

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This issue's column starts with an update from my dear friend **Robert Boland:** "It was a big year for sports law and for me, too. Last February, I won a rare injunction against the NCAA to allow a basketball player at Manhattan College to be eligible to play an additional year of basketball. Also, my work in the Olympic space led me to Paris in July for the 2024 Summer Games, where I had the bad timing to just miss my clients Canada Rugby and USA Rugby each winning medals in Women's 7s."

Robert said he was going to open a bottle of Tom Seaver's Cabernet to celebrate both the Mets anniversary of the 1969 World Series win and their amazing playoff run in 2024.

I'm with you! I even have a bottle of Seaver wine!

Elizabeth Leicester sent the following: "I studied Japanese at Columbia and have continued in the field ever since. In 2022, I was appointed associate director of the Yanai Initiative for Globalizing Japanese Humanities at UCLA, which recently received an endowment totaling $51 million. Last summer, my husband, Peregrine Beckman '84, and I spent a month in Provence in France. We met up with my sophomore roommate, **Andrea Basora,** for a glorious 10 days in Saint-Rémy-de-Provence. We also visited the vineyard of Larry Slaughter '85, a fellow EALAC major, who showed us around his recently renovated Château de Mille in the Luberon region. See the nearby photo!"

Elizabeth Leicester '87 and her husband, Peregrine Beckman '84 (center) visited with Lawrence Slaughter '85 at his vineyard, Château de Mille, in Apt, France, on Aug. 21.

Shelly Friedland wrote, "Last May I began a new chapter in my legal career. After about 18 years representing plaintiffs (in class actions and individual cases), I've returned to my roots as a litigator handling cases on either side. I am now counsel at Parker Pohl, a litigation boutique in Midtown, handling all manner of commercial disputes and employment matters. In theory, my husband and I are empty-nesters, but our kids, now both a short train ride away at Rutgers University-New Brunswick, keep coming to visit."

"I recently spent a lovely afternoon with **Linda Macri** and her daughters, Petra '28 and Franny, at The Hungarian Pastry Shop — where else?" Shelly said.

Tim Kennelly dropped a line that in September, he went to Munich and did the official Oktoberfest! He said this was "a bucket list item that was one of the best days of my life. Also took a side trip to Neuschwanstein Castle in Bavaria, one of the most fascinating buildings I've ever been in."

In more foreign travel news, **Laurie Kearney** wrote: "My husband, Craig Zelent, competed in the 2024 World Triathlon Championship Finals in Torremolinos, Spain, and I ran the Mallorca Marathon on Oct. 20."

Wow! I know what huge accomplishments those are!

A little closer to home, **Ellen Crovatto** sent the following: "I was recently appointed CEO of the New Canaan Library, a nonprofit community center for lifelong learning and arts and culture. I raised more than $40 million during the last few years to build this 42,000-sq.-ft. groundbreaking space that is an homage to the mid-century modern design that was born in New Canaan by the famous Harvard Five, which included Philip Johnson and Eliot Noyes. I oversee great programming and interviewing of leading authors and celebrities each month.

BENOIT LUDWIG

Yuri Kim '88 (left) and Margaret Traub '88 had dinner in Venice, Calif., on April 17.

"My husband, **Chris Crovatto,** and I are so proud of our children, James (Amherst '21); Nick (Bucknell '22); Lucia, a second-year pre-med student at UVA; and Christian, a junior at New Canaan H.S. For the last six years, Chris has been CEO and co-founder of Foundation CREF, a real estate finance company. He is launching a spinoff, a structured real estate finance firm, in the coming months."

Annmarie Jurczak wrote to tell us about the reunion for the Carman 8 women's swim team members that was held in Albuquerque, where they also enjoyed the balloon festival and celebrated upcoming milestone birthdays! Also in attendance were **Susan Rempe, Lynne Azer, Anne Fallon, Kim Swanson** and **Laura Lent**.

1988

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Congratulations to **Carl Schaerf** and his wife, Michelle Schaerf JTS/GS'89, who celebrated the wedding of their daughter Emily in Maplewood, N.J., on Sept. 19. **Daniel Goldberger** LAW'93, **Jonathan S. Lavine, Stefanie Katz-Rothman** and **Hal Shapiro** LAW'91 represented our class at the joyous occasion. Go to this column online at college.columbia.edu/cct to see a photo!

It's always good to hear from **Margaret Traub,** who lives in Los Angeles and remains in contact with a number of classmates. She writes, "Greetings from SoCal, where I had a fabulous catch-up with **Yuri Kim,** one of my first and closest Columbia friends — and Hartley suitemate junior year. (See the photo above!)

Yuri and her husband, Benoit Ludwig, flew in from Zurich, where they're enjoying semi-retirement and lots of travel. Yuri's amazing kids, Elena and Nicholas, are post college, working in London and New York.

"I'm still with the humanitarian organization International Medical Corps — 19 years!" Margaret continued. "And I love playing competitive tennis again, having barely picked up a racquet since playing for Columbia a lifetime ago. Fortunately my mind is more nimble than my feet."

Mazel Tov to **Marty Scheck** and his wife, Hili, on the birth of their granddaughter Remi last February. "Life is great in Miami, and nothing better than becoming a grandfather," Marty reported. "Happily married to Hili (she is from Israel) for 31 years with four daughters, two sons-in-law and one granddaughter. Still keep in touch with and see lots of our CC'88 friends."

Marty offered welcome words of encouragement with respect to some of the issues we both take to heart, such as antisemitism, anti-Zionism and protecting Jewish students on campus. "No more important time than now to support Israel, along with speaking up for human rights and stopping hate and antisemitism, which is sadly becoming too mainstream and accepted."

Marty's support for these concerns is much appreciated.

John Oswald, former *Spectator* managing editor and Marching Band member, died in October of long-term health issues. A career print and online journalist in the New York area, John received warm tributes from classmates and friends in his *Spectator* obituary (bit.ly/48AQhIy). He is gone too soon, but is well remembered by many. [Editor's note: Read more in "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct.]

Keep the updates coming! We look forward to hearing from you.

1989

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The column is taking a hiatus this issue but will be back in Summer 2025. Please continue to send me your news and updates so we stay connected!

1990

REUNION 2025
MAY 29–31

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Flashback to the Summer 2024 issue of *CCT*: Did you read about **Bob Schweitzer** on *CCT*'s website? So cool! If not, here's what you missed: bit.ly/4dibxV0.

Hooray, **Rene Bryce-Laporte** submits his first Class Note! It has only taken 34 years. Rene lives in his boyhood hometown of Washington, D.C., with his partner, Allison, and their young dogs, Etta James and Macy Gray. He has spent most of his post-graduation career helping disadvantaged people and communities find economic opportunity. Rene is the director of membership services for Apprenticeships for America. He says he is pleased to be in contact with many of his Columbia friends through social media, but it has been too long since he has seen many of you in person. On his last visit to Columbia, Rene says he was jarred by the introduction of tables and chairs at Koronet and the number of students who called him "sir."

I was also thrilled to hear from **Gloria Pak** (née Kim), who is so excited for our 35th reunion in May that she has begun training for it. In October, Napa Valley was the stand-in for Columbia and welcomed **Hyun Bae SEAS'90, Nancy Marshall** (née Pak), **Joy Metalios SEAS'90** (née Kim), **Tony Wong SEAS'90, Arlene Duffy** (née Hong) and Gloria for a memorable long weekend. They enjoyed amazing food and wine, celebrated their 38 years of friendship, and most importantly toasted to and remembered our beloved classmate **Peter Hsing SEAS'90,** who sadly passed away in 2020 and who always showed us how to love life and live life. The last time they were all in Napa was six years ago (at that time also with Peter, **Anita Bose, Betty Mar Tsang SEAS'90** and Steve Metalios '89 to celebrate their 50th birthdays). Gloria reports that now, as back then, there were lots of love and laughs, and they can't wait for the next gathering. See the nearby photo!

Folks, none of us has to wait long to reunite and have a wonderful time connecting, reconnecting and reminiscing. Make your plans now to be at Columbia Reunion 2025 in Morningside Heights Thursday–Saturday, May 29–31. Let's make up for our 30th non-reunion (we don't forgive you, Covid-19) and break another attendance record. See you in May!

HYUN BAE SEAS'90

A mini-1990 reunion was held in Napa Valley on Oct. 11. Attendees were, left to right, Hyun Bae SEAS'90, Nancy Marshall '90 (née Pak), Joy Metalios SEAS'90 (née Kim), Tony Wong SEAS'90, Gloria Pak '90 (née Kim) and Arlene Duffy '90 (née Hong).

1991

Susie Wood
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Greetings, Class of 1991! There is a chill of fall in the air as I write to you from Falls Church, Va. Thanks to everyone who submitted updates for my first column as class correspondent.

Congratulations are in order for **Michael Camacho**! Michael joined JPMorgan directly after graduation and worked at the company for more than 30 years in a series of leadership roles. He recently jumped to UBS to be head of U.S. wealth management.

We wish you well in your new position, Michael!

Daniel Balsam submitted his first Class Note from the Windy City, where he is treasurer of the Columbia University Club of Chicago. Beyond managing the club's finances, Daniel organizes an event series, "Three Paintings and a Dinner," in conjunction with The Art Institute of Chicago. According to Daniel, "Attendees deconstruct three paintings that share a theme, then decamp to a local restaurant where we continue to debate the merits of each painting over great food and drink."

Sound like fun? Daniel encourages all Chicago-area alumni to get involved with the club. Learn more: chicago.alumni.columbia.edu.

Suri Duitch reports that after an eight-year stint in New Orleans as dean of a college at Tulane, she has moved back to Brooklyn, where she is the president of Kingsborough Community College.

Congratulations, Suri!

Justin Kerber sends warm greetings from Indiana: "In November 2023, Congregation Beth Shalom held a joyful service of installation for me (usually done at the beginning of a rabbi's tenure, but long delayed by Covid-19) and a celebration of the 13th anniversary of the congregation's founding. My wife, Hope, teaches at Park Tudor School, where **Chris Front** GSAS'93 is the headmaster, and our younger son, Danny, is in seventh grade."

Justin's elder son is a student at American in Washington, D.C., so I hope to see Justin and meet his family the next time they visit.

Finally, many of you know that I grew up in North Carolina and was one of only three (I think) students from the state in our class. I was so saddened to see the destruction caused by Hurricane Helene to an area of the state that holds a special place in my heart. If any members of the Class of 1991 live in areas impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton, please let us know how you are doing. Stay well!

1992

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Greetings! As I write this, it has been 36 years and a few months since we were dropped off at Columbia for Orientation. It hit me differently this year because my son started college (not at Columbia) and wow, the tempus certainly does fugit.

I heard from fellow Carman 7 resident (and Phi Epsilon Pi, uh, sibling?) **Mark Collier**, who is professor of philosophy at the University of Minnesota Morris, "a public liberal arts college and Native American-serving non-tribal institution where more than 25 percent of students are American Indian."

Mike Fischer SEAS'92 dropped me a note to announce that, after 32 years, he has retired from his managing director position at Accenture.

"After working in nine different offices across the United States and Australia, it's time to move to the next chapter," Mike said. "My wife, Katia, and I will be spending the time chasing our kids around in all of their activities and school.

"If you are ever in the Dallas area (I know the news is pretty boring down here), let me know. It would be great to catch up," quoth Mr. Fischer.

Your punishment for not sending in more Class Notes submissions is that you get another entry from me: In October, I visited **Peter Hatch** in New York, and we went to see a Pogues tribute band and a Clash tribute band. Excellent, rowdy show, but when the lights came up it was like watching the crowd leaving a suburban PTA meeting — lots of paunches and pates.

1993

Neil Turitz
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It's been another hectic stretch in these parts, and I've been talking to and receiving emails from a lot of angry classmates. It's tough to get into it too much in this space, but because people have asked, I'm going to address a couple things because I think it's appropriate to do so.

For one, every single classmate with whom I have corresponded is upset with the way the University has handled the campus protests, regardless of what side they might be on. People have talked to me about no longer donating money, or even ending any relationship they might have with the College. Some have even asked me why I'm still doing this, and I'll gladly answer that here:

While I personally have great issues with what's happening on campus right now, what we do here, and how we keep in contact with each other, has nothing to do with that. In fact, it's through our continued contact and the stories we tell about ourselves in this space that we retain some power. Not just with the University, but in general. It's important to me that the Class of 1993 is well represented in these pages, because let's face it, we're the best one. If I don't do it, someone else will, and, with all humility, they won't do the job as well, because they won't care as much.

So while I will not be asking anyone to support the University or the College, I will continue to ask you for your updates so that we can all appreciate and even revel in each other's successes as we march on through middle age.

It is, in fact, with that in mind that I am also announcing the (I hope temporary) suspension of the Class of 1993 Rachel Mintz Memorial Fund, as we take a beat to see how things shake out over the course of the next year or so.

With all that out of the way, let's dive into the fun missives people sent in for this issue. **Ben Jacobs** is a professor at The George Washington University, where he co-directs The Collaboratory: A Center for Jewish Education and runs the iCenter/Graduate Degree in Israel Education program at GW. One of the Collab's signature programs is the Summer Institute and Fellowship on Antisemitism & Jewish Inclusion, focused on how to recognize, study and teach antisemitism and foster Jewish inclusion within higher education and K–12 settings.

Important work you're doing, Ben. If that's not a growth industry these days, I don't know what is.

Ben asks that anyone who might be interested in further information on these endeavors please reach out.

Tammie Rosen Purow works for Shurat HaDin - Israel Law Center, fighting terrorism and antisemitism in the courtroom, as well as what's happening on campus. Speaking of campus, **Greg Lang** wrote — despite not wanting to become a frequent flyer in this space — that his and **Grace Hyun Lang**'s daughter Diane '28 has started at the College. "After listening patiently to her parents advise that a John Jay single would be the ideal transition to college, she has rejected our advice and is now ensconced with roommates/suitemates on Carman 13 and seems to be having a blast.

"As parents and alumni," he continued, "we are hopeful that Israeli and Jewish students on campus know that alumni like us are 100 percent supportive of their right to be at Columbia, with zero tolerance for antisemitism. We were disappointed with many scenes from last year but very optimistic that things are on a better track."

We're all hopeful of that, Greg, but again, we'll have to wait and see.

The progeny of five classmates are up to interesting things, too. Mimi Gillies '25 (daughter of **Rhanda Moussa** and **Dan Gillies SEAS'93**) was the musical director of the Columbia Musical Theatre Society fall musical, and Aidan Hassan '26 (son of **George Hassan** and **Julie Davidson Hassan**) and Michael Kitt '28 (son of **Rita Pietropinto-Kitt** and Tom Kitt '96) were both in the cast. The trio posted a fun picture on Instagram, highlighting their parentage, leading Julie to say, "Aidan was telling me that they were all hanging out and talking about how five out of six parents were Class of '93, with one baby from '96 — Rita said, 'I robbed the cradle!' — and then I saw that picture on Instagram! So awesome!"

It is awesome, and nice to see some positive news coming from campus.

Laura Albritton wrote to say that, for the past four years, "I've been involved in making documentary films, including the public television documentary *The Florida Keys: 200 Years of Paradise*. My production company, Magic Kumquat Productions, created the short documentary *Longleaf Forever*, which explores longleaf ecosystems. It won the 2024 Wildlife Conservation Film Festival's Best North America Short award." Laura also had two nature films premiere this past fall on the festival circuit, *A Tortoise Called Pumpkin Spice* and *Devouring Beauties: The Remarkable Pitcherplants*. It's always great to see other classmates involved in the arts.

Renaissance woman **Jennifer Yue** DM'97 told me about how she gave an hourlong solo classical piano concert in September. She also had some of her oil paintings at the Delaware Valley Art League Fine Art Show and Sale at the Newtown Square Presbyterian Church the first weekend in November. Talk about range! "For many years," she says, "I was envious of all the people who could do all the things I wished I could be better at. Then I realized I was gifted with these things and that it is my responsibility to share these with others. So now I am evolving into a practicing artist, performing classical pianist and owner-dentist."

I wasn't kidding about the Renaissance woman thing, was I?

Lara Simone wrote from Tampa to declare that she survived two major hurricanes, "with no damage or loss of significance, just lots of mess and inconvenience. About half of my friends/family circle have been impacted — everything from losing a car to losing their home — some to fire, others to flood/surge. I feel grateful and lucky."

Lucky is right, Lara, and we're glad to hear you got through that OK. She also said that her oldest is a senior applying to college, her youngest is a year behind, and she is building and finding success in her digital media business.

Finally, we come to old friend **Eric Roston** GSAS'98, who is doing OK. "I have spent nearly (gulp) a quarter-century now writing about climate change and its discontents, about half that time at Bloomberg News. My wife of 20 years, Karen Yourish JRN'98, is also a journalist, only a much better one. We live with our daughter in Montclair, N.J.,

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which is a wonderful place to raise a family, even considering it has no world-class burrito joint."

Eric asked me to spruce that up to "make me sound normal!" But the truth is, while I am very, very, very good at this, I'm not that good.

Thanks everyone for writing in, whether with concerns or updates. With any luck, the next update will be more upbeat. Until then!

1994

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As promised, **Adam Becker** leads this season's notes. Although he was not at our 30th reunion last June, he is in downtown Manhattan and has been teaching at NYU for 22 years. Adam is a scholar of religion and a historian who has published multiple books, primarily on the Christian communities of what is now Iran, Iraq and Turkey. "Most of my excitement nowadays is at the boardwalk at the Jersey shore with my son, Shlomo (10), or in the world I inhabit by reading obscure, often-dead languages. I used to participate in extended stays in the Middle East and lots of parties. Now I rarely go north of 14th street."

Adam and his wife, Dana, also share Shoshana (2) and a vibrant life in NYC.

Dana Kostas (née Lowe) shares an update with *CCT* for the first time in 30 years. She and I spoke from her home in Poland, Ohio, and she effervesces with warmth for Columbia. After graduating near the top of our class, Dana studied law at Cornell and has built a career as an international contracts attorney for high-end corporations, most recently at AON, a Chicago-based leading global professional services firm. In addition to her knowledge of information technology, Dana is an expert in banking and data privacy. Further back in her work life, she investigated securities fraud for New Jersey and was involved in cases regarding the early days of online trading, foreign currency option and penny stocks.

"I felt so much love from Columbia," she says, and she loved living in Carman, studying in Australia and rowing crew our first year. Dana has fond memories of "all things Columbia," but especially of admissions officer Diane McKoy and Professor Dennis Dalton.

Dana is married to Angelo Kostas of Sharpsville, Pa., a registered dietitian and teacher and a graduate of Youngstown State University. Dana and Angelo attend their local church and support various charities. She said she would love to connect with Lions in the Pittsburgh/Youngstown area: dl22460@gmail.com.

Lola Rephann recalls, "A favorite memory was going to Dodge Fitness Center to work out. This was before the new aerobics and functional fitness rooms there are now! It was kind of dark and musty, but it was still a great way to switch gears from all the studying and reading." Lola left NYC in 2020 and bought a house in Tampa. "I own property in Costa Rica that I aspire to develop into cooperative housing for people who would like to have medium- to long-term stays or sabbaticals in Costa Rica," she says.

Mark Robilotti and his wonderful wife, Karin, spent time connecting with many attendees at reunion last June. They have two school-age children who keep them busy shuttling among baseball games, dance recitals and zip-lining parks. The family returned to the New York metro area recently after five years in California, and Mark recently joined Verifone, a leading payments solutions company, as executive VP and general counsel. He previously was a partner at boutique venture capital-focused law firm Reitler Kailas & Rosenblatt and worked with many superb colleagues, including Andrew Baraff '84 and Nate Richman GS'09.

Native Canadian **Joseph Biello** and his teenage daughters completed an Alcatraz swim in 2024. Maybe it's love of the cold? His 17-year-old finished first, his 13-year-old jumped in the water despite reporting what appeared to be a shark sighting and their old man trundled along behind but finished the race. Joseph is in his 20th year as professor at UC Davis, and "can't remember life outside of California anymore!"

Knowing the gratitude we have for life and for our Columbia education keeps us connected. Still, last year was an unprecedented pox upon our Columbia house. Negative feelings about alma mater abound because of antisemitism on campus and campus sequestration from the public. This is not a "Sans Souci" moment.

This tomorrow has brought "sorrow, or anything other than joy…" Noting this sentiment from the Windy City, **Yury Dubinsky** writes, "The good news is that my twin daughters are halfway through college. Anna was at NYU London in the fall, studying economics and math. Nina is at Loyola Chicago studying marketing. I'm still in Chicago but work remotely for Virtus Investment Partners, based in Hartford, where I've visited **Chris Gonzalez**. The bad news is that I'm disgusted with Columbia and its terrible leadership. [In my view] they enabled the occupation, which sided with a government-designated terrorist organization, while doing very little to protect supporters of Israel. Most recently, instead of protecting a Columbia professor from intimidation and harassment, they idly stood by and then barred Professor Shai Davidai from campus."

Alumni are the force to prevent the value of Columbia being left "out on life's stormy seas." We are bonded to all with the Core Curriculum and to CC'94s by September 1990–May 1994. When we look to that light, "we see the light." Stand, Columbia! Your alumni demand it.

1995

REUNION 2025
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In the last edition, I told you about **Grant Dawson**'s non-fiction workbook, an in-depth analysis of the international law governing the environmental remediation of sea-dumped chemical weapons. He recently celebrated the fall launch of a work of fiction on a similar topic, *The Lost Trident of Poseidon.* Grant signed books at The American Book Center in the Hague in October.

Congratulations to **Tim Carvell** for winning another yet another Emmy for *Last Week Tonight.* I occasionally run into Tim on the Upper West Side.

Arlo Devlin-Brown has been appearing on *Good Day New York,* the local morning show, to give commentary on the legal woes of NYC mayor Eric Adams. (Thanks, Arlo, for posting this on LinkedIn. It's always amazing when people open, and respond to, Linkedin messages!) If I remember correctly, Arlo lived on my Carman 10 floor. He's been at the law firm Covington & Burling for years and focuses on representing individuals and companies in high-profile white-collar investigations. After Harvard Law, Arlo worked at Wilmer Hale and was chief of the Public Corruption Unit at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, where he spent almost 11 years.

David Webber writes that last January, he started studying to become a rabbi as part of the Shalom Hartman Institute new ordination program. "I had the chance to write about my experience so far, in case it's of interest (bit.ly/3YF5Ud9). The program and the people are just as extraordinary as one would expect from Hartman, and I'm so grateful to be a part of it. (And no, I'm not leaving my law prof gig, just expanding my interests and studies)," David writes.

Thanks for the updates. I hope the 30th anniversary of our graduation will inspire folks to write in.

1996

Ana Salper
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The column is taking a hiatus this issue but will be back in Summer 2025. Please continue to send me your news and updates so we stay connected!

1997

Kerensa Harrell
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I hope that you are all enjoying a cozy winter and spring season! It is my pleasure to present the following updates from our class:

John Dean Alfone spent the past year as an English language arts teacher at Tierra Encantada Charter School in Santa Fe, N.M. He traveled to Los Angeles last June and reconnected with Janice Min '90, CEO of The Ankler. Alumni might recall Janice having been featured

on the cover of *CCT*'s March 2005 issue with the coverline "Min Makes Her Mark." See the nearby photo of John and Janice!

Nancy Schwartzman directed and executive-produced a five-part original documentary series, *Sasha Reid and the Midnight Order,* on Hulu last July. It chronicles the work of Reid and her all-female squad of crime fighters, Midnight Order, as they pursue justice for victims and their families. Taking a feminist approach to true crime, Nancy works to expose systemic harms while crafting gripping investigation. She is currently pursuing a project on freedom of expression.

Jessica Greenberg writes: "I am an associate professor of anthropology at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, specializing in democracy, social movements and human rights. I recently reconnected with old friends **Rachel Goldenberg** and **Sarah Katz.** Rachel is a Wexner Fellow and congregation rabbi and is a leader in progressive Jewish spirituality through Malkhut, of which she is also a founder. Sarah is a lawyer with expertise in family law and a clinical law professor at Temple. Given our longstanding connection to both social justice and Jewish life at Columbia, we felt moved to jointly write an open letter to the University on behalf of Jewish alumni. It addressed the response to protestors on our university's campus. We urged President Minouche Shafik to take responsibility for police violence against protestors and to affirm Columbia's commitment to freedom of expression and conscience: bit.ly/3AqXPAT."

As for myself, **Kerensa Harrell,** it is currently mid-October and I can't believe my daughter is now in second grade — oh, how the time flies! Starting with this school year I have a part-time job at her school while I continue to do a lot of volunteer work there. She and I are planning her 8th birthday party, and we have decided that the theme will be "pink Halloween." Last summer we enjoyed a lot of fun activities, including when our Girl Scout troop marched in the local July 4 parade and then our troop's Girl Scouts all bridged from being Daisies to Brownies with a lovely ceremony. We also spent several evenings with her friends at the nearby Magic Kingdom, just 7 miles from our home. We ended the summer with our annual mother-daughter Caribbean cruise, embarking at Port Canaveral, only an hour's drive, on the day that Hurricane Debby arrived in Florida. This time we went on a new ship, *Utopia,* which was built in France and had its maiden voyage in summer 2023. We had so much fun ice skating, rock climbing, playing laser tag, hunting for rubber duckies that passengers hide, and watching choreographed ice dance shows and aqua theater shows. When our ship docked for the day in Nassau, we walked to a nearby pirate museum to learn about the island's pirate history.

Roy Pomerantz '83 (left) visited with Rick de los Reyes '97; his wife, Dani de los Reyes; and their son Tom de los Reyes '27 at Homecoming on Oct. 26.

John Dean Alfone '97 and Janice Min '90 at a company event for The Ankler, of which Min is CEO, in Los Angeles on June 1.

As I sign off I will cue the song "Storm," by Cirque du Soleil, as we have been getting clobbered here in Florida by one hurricane after the next. Luckily our town (Celebration) is well protected from hurricanes, but my heart goes out to the rest of those in Florida and surrounding places who were adversely affected and are now struggling to recover. Many of our friends and family members in other Florida cities lost electricity in their homes and schools for a week after Hurricane Milton, and many homes were ruined by floodwaters.

I hope that classmates are all faring well, and please write to us with your updates. We would love to hear from you, even if it is just to say hello!

In lumine Tuo videbimus lumen.

1998

Sandie Angulo Chen
sandie.chen@gmail.com

Happy winter, Class of 1998! It's a short and sweet column this edition. Please remember that you don't have to wait for a milestone to send in an update. Even if you've had the same address, job and spouse for the last 20 years, feel free to let everyone know how you're doing (and/or send in a photo)!

After more than 20 years of teaching and leading in public, charter and private schools, **Alison Strickland Rini** TC'14 is launching a private school in Sarasota's under-resourced Newtown neighborhood to provide families with a meaningful educational choice. Star Lab features a mastery-based learning approach with a customized pace, an emphasis on movement and self-regulation, a science-driven curriculum and easy accessibility for all families. Alison is excited to reconnect with neuroscience colleagues and potential investors who believe strong elementary schools are key to leveling the playing field. Feel free to reach out to her at alison@starlab.world. Go to this column at college.columbia.edu/cct to see a photo!

1999

Lauren Gershell
lauren@gershell.com

Happy New Year to the Class of 1999! I am delighted to share the following updates from classmates and look forward to hearing from more of you for future issues.

Rebecca Sheir is in her eighth season as writer and host of Circle Round, the award-winning family folktales podcast distributed by WBUR (Boston's NPR station). The podcast's worldwide popularity has led to a picture-book series authored by Rebecca, a membership club for super fans and a 2024 U.S. tour featuring live, on-stage episode recordings in San Francisco; Minneapolis; Portland, Ore.; Seattle; Chicago; Homer, Alaska; and New York City. Rebecca lives in western Massachusetts with her husband, Circle Round's composer, Eric Shimelonis, and their 8-year-old son.

Author **Jen Lin-Liu** JRN'00 and **Jenna Johnson,** editor-in-chief of Farrar, Straus, & Giroux, are working together on Jen's latest book project, a biography of the woman who invented the word "stir-fry" and wrote a best-selling cookbook in the 1940s. *The Formidable Mrs. Chao: The Forgotten Chinese Julia Child* will be published in 2026.

Congratulations to **Ebon Moss-Bachrach,** who won an Emmy this past September for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series for *The Bear*!

Andy Newcomer wrote to me announcing, "Springer is publishing a book I co-authored and edited, *Children with Medical Complexity in the Emergency Department: A Case-Based Guide.* I'm the medical director of pediatrics at Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital. My husband and I moved here last year with our son, a 5-year-old who underwent a kidney transplant in 2021."

Nina Willdorf, Susie Lee, Julia Cervantes, David Schach SEAS'99, Heather Folsom, Marie Brown, Philip Winn, Amy Cole, Brad Neuberg, Allan Ng and **Charlie Leykum** had an informal gathering in San Francisco on Sept. 11 with dinner and drinks. The group enjoyed seeing familiar faces and making new connections. Go to this column online at college.columbia.edu/cct to see a photo!

2000

REUNION 2025
MAY 29–31

Kavita Shah Bafana
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While there are no notes from classmates this time, I do want to remind you that our 25th class reunion will be held this spring on campus and at venues around NYC. Join classmates at this great three-day event to reconnect and reminisce, and to possibly meet classmates you didn't know when we were undergrads! Watch for more from the Alumni Office.

Until next time, keep striving, keep shining and most importantly, keep in touch!

2001

Jonathan Gordin
jrg53@columbia.edu

Hi, everyone. I know it's been a very busy time. Please reach out with updates for classmates to read here.

First off, exciting news that **Alisa Amarosa Wood** BUS'08 recently was appointed to the Columbia University Board of Trustees and the Columbia University Investment Management Company Board (overseeing the endowment).

Alisa is a partner in KKR's Private Equity group and is co-leading the firm's two private equity open-ended, perpetual vehicles. Alisa's time as a trustee follows her time as chair of the Columbia College Board of Visitors. She lives in NYC with her husband, **Alastair Wood,** general counsel for Raisin, and their children, Alastair, Maggie and Teddy. In Alisa's words, "Life is clearly very busy these days but also very fun and rewarding."

Congratulations to Alisa!

Jessie Tubridy O'Sullivan wrote with an update that made me nostalgic for college (and reuniting with old, dear friends): "**Jenny Tubridy O'Connell, Anne-Marie Ebner, Becca Siegel Bradley, Jessie Tubridy O'Sullivan** and **Emily Georgitis Stanton SEAS'01** visited **Ali Kidd** in Lake Tahoe in September. All had a wonderful weekend hiking, boating and dining on the lake. (Go to this column online at college.columbia.edu/cct to see a photo!)

"Jenny is a judge in Brooklyn criminal court, living in Rockaway, N.Y., with her husband and her daughter, Joanie (4). Anne-Marie is a sales leader at UKG; she and her wife, Jamie, live in Mt. Kisco, N.Y., with their kids, William (2) and Alexandra (4). Becca lives in Nashville with her husband and her children, Aniela (9) and Paul (13). Becca is a lead IT analyst at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Jessie lives in Rockaway, N.Y., with her boys, Chris (8) and Eamon (6), and her husband. She works in corporate insurance sales for Reliance Matrix. Emily lives in Boulder with her husband and her sons, Will (12) and Teddy (9). Emily is a pulmonary and critical care doctor at Colorado Permanente Medical Group. Ali lives in Oakland, Calif., with her husband and her kids, Sam (12) and Evie (10). She is a partner at Gibson Dunn.

"The ladies had a wonderful weekend reminiscing about their time at Columbia. Time has treated all of them well, as no one looks a day older than 25. Looking forward to the 2026 reunion."

Last but not least, I celebrated Sukkot in my dear friend **Annie Marquit**'s (née Lainer) Sukkah. Annie and her husband, Jonathan, hosted Jamie Rubin BC'01 and me, and it was delightful to catch up under the stars at their home in Los Angeles. It was fun to watch our kids playing together.

I hope everyone stays well and in touch. Would love to hear from all of you.

2002

Sonia Hirdaramani
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Ramin Hedayati won the Emmy for Outstanding Talk Series - 2024 for his work as co-executive producer of *The Daily Show.* On the personal front, he welcomed his first child, Bijan Alexandre Hedayati, in July.

Agnia Grigas' 2024 book, *How to Win the Million-Dollar College Admissions Game: The Ultimate Guide for Getting Into the College of Your Dreams,* made the Amazon and Barnes & Noble national bestsellers lists.

Gustave Falciglia is a neonatologist and "lives in Chicago with his wife, Kate Nash — not the singer-songwriter from England, but the gynecologist from Chicago." They have two boys, 12 and 14, and a dog who keep them busy.

Ellen Gustafson recently moved to the Washington, D.C., area with her Navy husband and their kids (7-year-old daughter and 5-year-old boy-girl twins). She is the co-founder and executive director of We the Veterans and Military Families, which empowers these groups to lead America in patriotic civic engagement. Its Vet the Vote campaign recruited 141,000-plus vets and military family members to be poll workers last year to build trust and ensure enough election volunteers!

2003

Michael J. Novielli
mjn29@columbia.edu

Classmates continue to crush it and do exciting things, so I'm happy to share a few updates. For those who haven't shared an update recently, please do so that we can learn what is new in your lives.

Raj Patel writes, "I live in Chicago and am a partner at Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath. My practice focuses on construction and infrastructure transactions. I would love to connect with any alumni living in or passing through Chicago!"

Afia Owusu-Sekyere and her husband, Jeff, welcomed a baby boy in May 2024. Afia recently connected in person with several CU alums: **Veru Narula SEAS'03, Mimi Nartey** and **Arah Lewis** flew to Northern California to celebrate the baby's arrival.

Raheleh Hatami is director, portfolio strategy and innovation, at Deerfield Management, which focuses on making public and private investments in the healthcare and biotechnology industries.

Joel Teklu recently joined Amini & Conant, a law firm based in Austin.

2004

Jaydip Mahida
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I hope everyone is having a great winter and that those who attended Homecoming last fall had a great time.

The class continues to do big things and make important societal contributions in a variety of ways, as **Lucia Aniello** won a 2024 Emmy for her work on *Hacks* and **David Johns** Ph.D. TC'22 writes from Washington, D.C.: "I hope this update finds everyone guarding their joy (and defending democracy). A few significant updates: I became the CEO (in addition to being the executive director) of the National Black Justice Coalition at the top of 2024. I appointed Dr. Marcus A. Hunter '03 to my board, and together, we produced National Equity Week, a series of activations in D.C. that included a Rights & History Expo (where we registered voters and offered vogue and ballroom workshops), Equity Ball, Equity March, and Demonstration. You can learn more and watch videos at NBJC.org/equity-week. NBJC released first-of-its-kind data about the Black electorate and issues concerning our beautifully diverse community. Oh, and my partner, André White, and I recently got engaged in Tahiti. Love wins!"

That's all for this issue. Please continue to send in updates, as we want to hear from as many folks as possible. Career and family updates are always great, but please reach out to share anecdotes, memories or any

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other fun news! You can send updates either via email or the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2005

REUNION 2025
MAY 29–31

Sallie Touma
sallie@sallietutor.com

Let's have our first Tri-State supper club! Please email me to volunteer to host or to attend. We will host one another at a different house each month.

We're at our 20th reunion year! It's unreal! See above for Columbia Reunion 2025 dates.

Here are our Class Notes:

From **Jaclyn Neel:** "I was granted tenure in the College of the Humanities at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada."

From **Evette Stair:** "I recently got together with Princess Myrie '09, **Brenda Daniels** and **Nicole Hirsch** in Times Square, of all places. We all lived together in Wallach our sophomore year and it's great to get together." Go to this column at college.columbia.edu/cct to see a photo!

2006

Andrew Stinger
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Sending warmest greetings from Brooklyn to my illustrious Columbia College alumni family. I hope everyone had wonderful end-of-year holidays, and that the New Year finds you well. Here's the latest and greatest from our fellow members of the Class of 2006.

Adam Zucker co-founded a decarbonization and electrification development firm, Fieldston Power. It's developing a multi-megawatt community-distributed generation solar system atop 75 multifamily complexes in the South Bronx, Northern Manhattan and parts of Brooklyn. An economic development project, the virtual power plant will come online this spring and provide thousands of low-income households with savings of 20 percent on monthly energy bills. The firm is next deploying battery storage, e-charging stations and fleet electrification strategies across the city, and to other densely populated cities around the country.

Tamar Fuhrer and **Jon Faria** welcomed their second child, Asher Judah Faria, on Jan. 11, 2024. He is already living up to his name as the happiest baby on the planet! Big brother Jonah and the couple's senior dogs, Murray and Riff, have done a great job showing Asher the ropes. Tamar also started a role in 2023 as the deputy chief transportation officer for Culver City, Calif., which she and Jon have called home for the last decade. Tamar rounded out her 30s by being named to *Mass Transit*'s 40 Under 40 list for 2024. Tamar and Jon would love to connect with any Lions in the Los Angeles area!

2007

David Donner Chait
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I hope everyone is doing well, and thank you to those who shared updates with our class.

Kathleen Reckling GSAS'09 shares, "I have been promoted to the position of CEO of ArtsWestchester, effective last May. The Board of Directors conducted a national search to find the successor to Janet Langsam, who led the organization for 33 years. ArtsWestchester is the largest organization of its kind in New York State, working in partnership with Westchester County and the state to administer more than $2 million in grants to artists and cultural organizations, develop county-wide marketing strategies, and provide professional development opportunities for creative workers and not-for-profit arts groups. ArtsWestchester is also a regional leader in arts programming and regularly supported by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

"I've been with the organization for 13 years, and worked at every level, including as an unpaid intern! This is an exceptionally dynamic time for the arts in the lower Hudson Valley, with a booming creative workforce and unbounded vision among our many new and established cultural organizations.

Sarah S. Gitlin '13 and Tao Tan '07 with their son, Alexander Lavi Hengrui Tan Gitlin, at Alex's first outing, held in Central Park in early October.

I look forward to guiding and empowering our talented team as we seek opportunities to expand our impact and support of this diverse and ever-growing arts sector."

Tao Tan BUS'11 writes, "Sarah S. Gitlin '13 and I are thrilled to share the news of the birth of our son, Alexander Lavi Hengrui Tan Gitlin. Alex was born on Oct. 4 at 6:08 p.m. at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City, weighing 5 pounds, 15 ounces, and measuring 19.3 inches. He already has a voracious appetite and an impressive set of lungs. Both mother and baby are recovering well." See the above photo!

Sohan Dasgupta "spoke at the Oxford Union in the United Kingdom on Sept. 21." He observed, "The long-term success of any society depends on its respecting its past while preparing for its future."

Tarik Bolat writes, "**David Schor**'s peripatetic career continues apace. Carman's favorite son has leaped into contention for the jug-nosh heavyweight title after decimating opponents on the North American jug-nosh circuit.

"What is jug-noshing? It is the high-wire skill of juggling three foods of one's choice and taking a bite of each item as its flight path crosses the mouth — while continuing to juggle.

"David's signature trio is lox, aged Cheddar and a cronut. He has bested such legends on the circuit as Hans von Sauerbraten, whose capacity for juggling all manner of boiled meats needs no introduction, and Volkan Dolmaoglu, who is known among tour insiders as the Sergeant of Stuffed Veg."

2008

Bradley Blackburn
blb2104@columbia.edu

Keep our column in mind for future news and notes, CC'08!

Adam Katz writes about 2024 from Stockholm: "It's been a year! My short story was published on JewishFiction.net. That makes maybe half a dozen publications of stories and essays in the last two years. I work for Bridging Cultures Group to run seminars for New York public school teachers to be able to address the contentious issue of the Israel/Palestine war in their classrooms. I moved to Stockholm in March 2024. It's pretty here."

2009

Jonathan Berliner
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Hey, Class of 2009! It took 15 years, but I'm finally honored to be the class correspondent. I thank my predecessor, **Shira Burton**, for her service. As I catch up with many of you, I continue to be amazed at the fascinating and divergent paths we've taken. Had you asked me on the morning of May 20, 2009, if I imagined myself moving to rural Washington State within a few months, I would be very confused by the question. Neverthe-

Just Married!

CCT welcomes wedding photos where at least one member of the couple is a College alum. Please submit your high-resolution photo, and caption information, on our photo webform: **college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.** Congratulations!

JESSICA FEUERSTEIN

MERVE TOGAN

TYLER RAMIREZ

ALEX KNIGHT

PERIGEE PHOTO CO.

SARAH M CARPENTER PHOTOGRAPHY

1. Alexandra Mummery '95 (sixth from left) married Michael Wylie on July 20 in South Setauket, N.Y., with Phi Epsilon Pi fraternity members and their guests in attendance. Left to right are Catherine Miller '96; Andre Chan SEAS'04 and his wife, Christianna Lee; Bill Flaherty '94; Alia Albeer BC'96; and Josh O'Connor '95 and his wife, Nina Markowitz, and son, Declan.

2. Eliana Freilich BC'23 and Sam Freilich '22 celebrated their June 16 wedding in Rockleigh, N.J., with a host of friends from the Columbia College Classes of 2021, 2022 and 2023 and the Barnard College Classes of 2023 and 2024.

3. Negin Navab '12 and Alexander Powell '12 were married at Villa Aurelia in Rome, Italy, on Sept. 12.

4. Kallin Spiller '21 (left) and Kendall Dunlap eloped on Castles Beach in Kailua, Hawaii, on June 2.

5. Krys Molina '19 was joined by bridesmaids (left to right) Mary Grace Gana SEAS'19, Natalie Moncayo SEAS'19, Michell Tapia, Yamily Calle, Karla Molina, Nicole Romola SEAS'19, Alejandra Uría '19 and Lacey Dikkers '19 when she married Brad LeFebvre on Dec. 9, 2023. Their wedding took place at The Hotel Hershey in Hershey, Pa.

6. Simon Doong and Michelle Goff '19 were married on July 27. With them at the Idaho Falls celebration were Stephanie Borgani '19 (left) and Gabrielle Engelmann-Suissa '19.

less, it was one of the best decisions of my life and I am forever thankful to Professors Szabolcs and Zsuzsa Márka for giving me that opportunity. Conducting Alumni Representative Committee interviews from Washington State and later from Washington, D.C., where I live now, was one of the highlights of my alumni experience.

Other classmates have moved all over the world, have teenage kids, have taken leadership positions in public service or reliably stayed in Manhattan for impromptu reunions during my visits to campus. I continue hearing about weddings among fellow Columbians who were in other relationships during college. This is why we need to stay up to date on our class correspondence!

On the one hand, it's humbling; on the other hand, I feel so fortunate to know each of you personally. Please reach out to me at any time to talk, for a meal or if you need a place to crash in D.C.

Last, if you are interested in doing hyperlocal reunions or setting up a class group in WhatsApp, Discord, Slack or whatever, please let me know! If not, I will probably be that person.

Huge congratulations to **Amy Duffuor** on being awarded the C3E Finance & Investment Award by the U.S. Department of Energy. Clean Energy Education & Empowerment is a public-private sector collaboration focused on advancing women in the energy sector, led by DOE, MIT, Stanford and Arizona State. C3E elevates women in the clean energy sector and amplifies their success stories about diversifying the field. "Duffuor is a co-founder and general partner of Azolla Ventures, where she invests in early-stage technology companies with transformative climate impact. She is also a managing director of Prime Impact Fund, Azolla's predecessor vehicle," per the DOE press release.

Leora Falk BC'07 and I celebrated our ninth wedding anniversary after moving into a new home in Washington, D.C., with our children, Dov and Shoshana. One of the previous owners of our home, William Taylor, worked on the *Brown v. Board of Education* case

with Jack Greenberg '45, LAW'48. When visiting Leora's family in Newton, Mass., during the first days of Sukkot, we met **Ariela Brafman** (née Rosenberg), who is married to Yonatan Brafman '07, GSAS'14 and has three children. Ariela is president and executive director of the Reinvention Foundation, which furthers educational and other charitable initiatives, while Yonatan is a professor in the Department of Religion at Tufts University.

Leora and I count at least 10 alumni within walking distance of us. I recently attended a birthday party at the home of **David Feith** and Sarah Feith BC'09 (née Morgan). When not jumping on his new trampoline, David develops policy for U.S.-East Asia relations. In our own sukkah, we hosted Devora Labaton BC'10, her husband and three children, spending hours going through names from our yearbook. Just around the Beltway, **Alan Feder** GSAS'10 and **Ashira Lubkin** moved three years ago to Potomac, Md., with their two children. Ashira is a microbiologist at the National Institutes of Health, while Alan is a data scientist working in government.

Jay Chudow SEAS'09 moved to Riverdale, N.Y., and practices cardiology in White Plains, which hosts many alumni in the Class of 2009. *CCT* should do a roadshow there!

Mindy Feldman Hecht PH'12 lives with her family on the Upper West Side and is a program manager at CUIMC. She and her family visited **Deni Kolatch** and family during Labor Day weekend, where the kids played together in the backyard. Mindy also enjoyed a festive holiday meal with Navah Kogen BC'08 and celebrated the Jewish holidays in synagogue with Yael Steiner BC'09.

Michael Emerson and Adina Bitton BC'08 live in Tzur Hadassah in Israel. Michael is director of special projects at The Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies, while Adina works in regulatory affairs for Brain.Q, a medtech startup working on a device to aid in stroke recovery. They recently celebrated the bat mitzvah of their daughter, Maayan (12), who read beautifully from the Torah and completed the Seder Moed in the Mishna. Also joining the celebration were Maayan's younger siblings, Lital (9), Keren (6) and Nadav (2).

Sarah Witkin's father, Eric Witkin '69, a former Columbia College Alumni Association Board of Directors president and a dedicated and involved alumnus, passed away on Oct. 7, 2024. Please go to the CC'69 Class Notes column in this issue to read her remembrance of him.

It is my intention to contact each of you during the course of this journey and strengthen our bonds. Start answering random calls, because it's probably me or another classmate looking to reconnect. I also recommend the Odyssey Mentoring Program (college.columbia.edu/alumni/odyssey-mentoring). Let me know what you want this experience to be and we can share in this terrific journey together.

Please send your news and updates to me via email or through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. I will be sure to incorporate your update in a future column! Photos should be sent directly to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Just make sure they feature at least two CC alumni (or one CC alum, as long as a member of the couple, for "Just Married!").

2010

REUNION 2025
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Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Congratulations to actor **Asher Grodman**, who was a 30th Annual Critics Choice Awards nominee in the Best Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series category for his role as the spirit of Trevor Lefkowitz, an affluent 1990s stockbroker, on CBS' *Ghosts*. Read more about Asher in *CCT*'s Online Spotlight: college.columbia.edu/cct/latest/online-spotlights/asher-grodman-10-ghost-most.

A reminder that your 15th class reunion will be held this spring on campus and at venues around NYC. Join classmates at this great three-day event to reconnect and reminisce, and to possibly meet classmates you didn't know when you were undergrads! Watch for more info from the Alumni Office.

2011

Nuriel Moghavem and Sean Udell
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sean.udell@gmail.com

Hey 2011! We have just one update for you this winter. We look forward to hearing more from you this spring!

Olivia Shih is thoroughly enjoying teaching at the California College of the Arts in San Francisco, and she was thrilled to participate in the CCA Artist & Crafts Fair with her brilliant and unorthodox jewelry students. Her students slung handwoven silver earrings, rings cast from real snakeskin and gaping necklaces inspired by vagina dentata on Nov. 16.

2012

Pat Blute
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Have a wonderful winter and spring, Lions!

New York was absolutely gorgeous this past fall, and it's been refreshing to catch up with so many of you across the city and the world. Wishing everyone success and excitement in the year ahead.

Sarah Chai Schildknecht is doing phenomenal things as managing counsel for LA28 (the 2028 Summer Olympics)! She has been incredibly inspired by the success of Paris 2024, and we look forward to seeing how her work has an impact on the United States' turn in 2028.

Congratulations to the talented **Ope Omojola**, founder of Octave Jewelry, who created "Communion" of fordite, soapstone and sterling silver and was featured in "Residual Energies" at the Nina Johnson Gallery. Ope's studio "was the natural outcome of a lifelong creative practice prioritizing materiality, color and movement." Ope first picked up a soldering torch at a weeknight class at the 92nd Street Y, and years of independent experimentation and exploration led to Octave's signature — wearable sculptures that speak to personal style, history and sentimentality.

Richard Quatrano has been practicing corporate law, eating well and having a pretty good time doing both of those things. His job recently took him to the opening of a client's steakhouse in Las Vegas on the Strip.

Ian Scheffler recently traveled to San Francisco to swim in a race (an awesome hobby he picked up after the pandemic!) from Alcatraz back to the city. To his surprise, he finished second in his age group, and 12th overall in the wetsuit division. He also ran into **Anoushka Vaswani** while having lunch in Noe Valley and met up with Hannah Ford '13, VPS'19.

2013

Tala Akhavan
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I hope everyone is staying warm and enjoying the season! A few exciting updates from our class:

Grecia Barboza is in her fourth season of working in the San Francisco 49ers' legal department. She was promoted to counsel last year.

Congratulations, Grecia!

Iman Nanji has relocated to Washington, D.C., with her husband and 1-year-old son, Raj. She is working with Boston Consulting Group out of D.C. and is excited to reconnect with classmates in the area!

Sarah Gitlin and Tao Tan '07, BUS'11 "welcomed Alexander Lavi Hengrui Tan Gitlin to their family on Oct. 4, 2024. Alex was born at Mt. Sinai Hospital weighing 5 pounds, 15 ounces. The fact that two Columbia College alums married to each other named their son Alexander is, of course, a coincidence." See a photo near the CC'07 column!

Maria Sulimirski (known on stage as Maria Abous) released her second album of jazz and theater standards, *Merry Little Christmas*, produced by fellow music major **Jacob Samuel Snider.** It is live on all streaming platforms. For more info and to follow along with Maria's music, visit mariaabous.com!

2014

Rebecca Schechter Fattell
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I have just one note this issue: **Christin Zurbach** writes, "I recently

graduated from UC Berkeley with a doctorate in history and am moving to Los Angeles for a post-doctoral fellowship. If you live in the L.A. area, let's meet up!"

I hope to hear from more of you in the year ahead. Class Notes is a great way to stay connected, and informed about each other's lives!

2015

REUNION 2025
MAY 29–31

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

[Editor's note: *CCT* thanks **Kareem Carryl** for his 10 years of service as class correspondent. This is his last column. If you are interested in taking on this role, please send a note to cct@columbia.edu with the subject line "CC'15 class correspondent." In the meantime, please send your news and/or College memories to *CCT* through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.]

Hello, Class of 2015! It is hard to believe that this spring marks 10 years since we graduated from Columbia. The Reunion Committee is hard at work organizing a fun and engaging weekend. I look forward to seeing many of you there. Please stay tuned for updates.

2016

Lily Liu-Krason
lliukrason@gmail.com

Hi 2016. I hope you've had a great start to your new year! On my end, I'm still living and working in Brooklyn. Please reach out if you are around, no matter how long it's been — I would love to hear from you!

Here's an update from a classmate — please support her!

Smita Sen lives in Miami, Fla., and writes, "I have my first solo museum exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art North Miami. It opened in November and runs through April, with a performance for Miami Art Week in December."

As always, please send through any notes, updates or photos for the next issue: where you're living, what you're doing and what's next!

2017

Carl Yin
carl.yin@columbia.edu

Bianca Guerrero is still living and working in New York City. These days, they run a fellowship for social justice organizers around the country with the goal of retaining good talent, deepening strategy skills and developing fellows' leadership philosophies. The fellowship is hosted by Leadership for Democracy and Social Justice, an institute at CUNY. In their spare time, Bianca continues to do film photography independently and to quilt as part of the NYC Metro Modern Quilters Guild.

Brynn Harris writes, "I got to celebrate my marriage with some of my favorite Columbia people in July! It meant the world to me that the people who were there for some of the most formative years of my life would fly to Utah to support me."

Blake Halim shares that he was to get married in November.

Chris Chin recently gave a TEDx talk, "How Music Can Make Your Data Sing" (bit.ly/3ZBci5S), and shares: "At Columbia, we faced a daunting task trying to choose our majors — creative writing OR biology OR economics OR computer science. My life since graduating from Columbia has been about finding my 'AND,' breaking the stereotype that science and the humanities are polar, irreconcilable opposites. After all, in order to make informed decisions in our increasingly complex, data-heavy world, we require a perspective that balances both. My TEDx talk details the journey I took from film composition to data storytelling, and how the intuition from music and information from data can inspire us with truly human-centered insight."

Elsa MH Mäki is happy to have returned to Columbia after several years, now as a staff member. Last summer, she started as the assistant director of The Temple Hoyne Buell Center for the Study of American Architecture at GSAPP.

2018

Alexander Birkel
and Maleeha Chida
ab4065@columbia.edu
mnc2122@columbia.edu

No news this time. We hope to hear from you for the next issue! Reach out via email or through the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2019

Tj Aspen Givens and
Emily Gruber
tag2149@columbia.edu
emilyannegruber@gmail.com

Happy winter and spring, Class of 2019! We are happy to share the following good news from classmates. We send our best wishes, and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Lucy Kirichenko got engaged in August to Reilly Knorr LAW'25.

Congrats to the happy couple!

Krys Molina celebrated her marriage to her best friend, Brad, in a magical winter wonderland wedding in December 2023. Surrounded by love, laughter, and the festive warmth of the holiday season, the couple's day was filled with unforgettable memories and Christmas cheer. Go to "Just Married!" to see a photo!

Brent Morden had the honor of representing Columbia College in his first national commercial! Brent's story from brass player to band director was profiled in a campaign celebrating college spirit for Hilton's Graduate Hotels. Catch Brent at an upcoming Lions game directing the Columbia Athletics Pep Band in his third season with Athletics.

Kudos, Brent!

2020

REUNION 2025
MAY 29–31

Stephen Cone and
Kyra Ann Dawkins
jsc2247@columbia.edu
kad2196@columbia.edu

Liz Zhuo is associate director at Lévy Gorvy Dayan, a blue-chip art gallery on the Upper East Side specializing in post-war and contemporary art.

Thank you to Liz for writing in, and we look forward to hearing from more of you. Please send your news and updates so we can share them with classmates!

2021

Mario A. Garcia Jr.
mag2329@columbia.edu

One note this time, from **Joon Baek**, who writes, "An NGO that Zino Haro SEAS'20 and I co-founded, Youth for Privacy, is on the 2025 Forbes 30 Under 30 list in the Education category."

Congratulations, Joon and Zino! Read more at bit.ly/4gbs5zn.

I would love to hear from all of you; if you would like to share a Class Note, please feel free to reach out to me at any time by email or through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2022

Mark Anthony Torres
mat2223@columbia.edu

No news this time, Class of '22. How's it going? What do you have planned for 2025? Work, travel, school or whatever fun stuff is going on in your life — send me some updates! No accomplishment or life event is too big or too small to share.

2023

Ashley Yu
ashley.yu@columbia.edu

Dear Class of 2023, I hope we can all find meaningful ways to stay connected. I am excited to learn about everyone's new adventures, whether that is starting a job, continuing on to grad school or embarking on other exciting journeys. Through submitting Class Notes, each and every one of you can share what you have been up to recently and any exciting life updates — small or big! Please reach out to me via email or the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

Elsa Chung works in television distribution at All3Media International. She is also producing a short documentary, *Si la Isla Quiere* ("Island Willing"), which takes place on Chile's Robinson Crusoe Island and explores environmental conservation and community.

Jonathan Chen works in quantitative trading and travels in his free time. Some notable destinations are Spain, Guatemala, France, Iceland and Ireland.

Taylor Johnston SPS'24 writes, "I completed a 4+1 program with an M.S. in sustainability management from the School of Professional Studies. I have also been a sustainability analyst at Pfizer for the last year on its Sustainability Reporting and Disclosures team. I have been an alumni panelist at Columbia's sustainability management course (taught by Steven Cohen), have been a reviewer for the Bezos Earth Fund's AI Climate and Nature Grand Challenge and have represented Pfizer at the UN High-Level Political Forum Global Compact."

Dylan Santore shares, "I work at PSS, which designs traffic safety control devices, as the marketing events coordinator. I reside in Lakewood, Ohio, where I skateboard and am involved in the local goth/punk scene."

2024

Rebecca L. Smith
rls2223@columbia.edu

[Editor's note: *CCT* welcomes new class correspondent **Rebecca L. Smith!** Here, a few words from her.]

Hello, Class of 2024! I'm so excited to be our class correspondent. Class Notes is a fun way to keep up with classmates, near and far. Send news about your post-graduation adventures — a first job, more classes toward another degree (!) or whatever you're up to. I look forward to receiving news from the newest CC alumni!

Send news via email or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. I'll be sure to include your news in a future column!

Photos are welcome! Send photos directly to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Make sure they feature at least two CC alumni (or one CC alum, as long as they're a member of the couple, for "Just Married!").

obituaries

Columbia College Today has learned of the deaths of the following alumni. To submit an obituary for a Columbia College graduate, please use the online webform college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_obituary.

1947 **Nicholas A. Giosa,** physician, Wethersfield, Conn., on June 29, 2024.*

1948 **Durham Caldwell,** broadcast and print journalist, Holyoke, Mass., on Sept. 20, 2024.

1951 **Leon N. Cooper,** physicist, Providence, R.I., on Oct. 23, 2024.**

1952 **G. Howard Hansen,** insurance adviser, Port Saint Lucie, Fla., on April 14, 2024.*

Frank E. Salerno, banker, Bronxville, N.Y., on April 3, 2024.*

James P. Santos, engineer and business owner, Exeter, N.H., on Sept. 16, 2024.*

1953 **David A. Nass,** engineering contractor, Columbia, S.C., on Sept. 1, 2024.*

Nicholas Wolfson, law professor, Annapolis, Md., on Aug. 14, 2024.*

1955 **Jeffrey H. Broido,** nuclear engineer, La Jolla, Calif., on June 21, 2024.

Stanley B. Lubman, Chinese law expert, Berkeley, Calif., on Oct. 29, 2024.**

Henry D. "Hank" Wolf, engineer, Falls Church, Va., on Nov. 14, 2024.

1958 **Ira S. Carlin,** attorney, Rancho Santa Fe, Calif., on May 15, 2024.*

1959 **Lowell A. Goldsmith,** physician and professor, Durham, N.C., on July 10, 2024.*

Paul D. Lenner, telecommunications executive, New York City, on Aug. 10, 2024.*

1960 **Robert A. Machleder,** attorney, Forest Hills, N.Y., on July 9, 2024.

1961 **Arthur E. Schwimmer,** attorney, Los Angeles, on Jan. 11, 2024.*

Adolf F.J. "Fred" Toborg, teacher and soccer coach, New York City, on March 2, 2024.*

1964 **Michael P. Lerner,** activist and rabbi, Berkeley, Calif., on Aug. 28, 2024.*

Jack H. Porter Jr., development officer and marketer, Larchmont, N.Y., on Sept. 26, 2024.*

Alex H. Ray, physician and scientist, Newton, Mass., on June 28, 2024.*

Steven A. Sindell, attorney, Cleveland, on Oct. 3, 2024.*

Michael H. Willis, publishing and public relations executive, Pierstown, N.Y., on Feb. 16, 2024.*

1966 **Howard N. Machtinger,** teacher, Durham, N.C., on July 6, 2024.*

1969 **Simos C. Dimas,** attorney, Bronxville, N.Y., on Nov. 29, 2024.

Eric D. Witkin, attorney, Harrison, N.Y., on Oct. 7, 2024.*

1970 **Robert L. Zussman,** sociologist, Northampton, Mass., on Nov. 27, 2024.

1973 **James P. Perkoski,** attorney, North Attleboro, Mass., on April 28, 2024.*

Harlan L. Rips, optical business owner, Omaha, Neb., on Sept. 26, 2024.

1988 **John A. Oswald,** journalist, Freeport, N.Y., on Oct. 14, 2024.*

2005 **Burke J. O'Donnell,** hotel industry manager, Portland, Maine, on Sept. 18, 2024.*

2007 **Havilah A. Giannetta,** writer, Palmyra, Va., on Nov. 10, 2024.

2010 **Adam Valen Levinson,** cultural sociologist, Swarthmore, Pa., on Nov. 28, 2024.

* Full obituary online at college.columbia.edu/cct. ** Featured obituary online at college.columbia.edu/cct.

Katznelson's work on *Feud* included outfitting actress Naomi Watts, who portrayed socialite Babe Paley.

COURTESY OF FX NETWORKS

STYLING THE SWANS

Leah Katznelson '02 is an award-winning costume designer known for her work on shows as varied as the Nixon-era *White House Plumbers* and the contemporary domestic drama *Fleishman Is in Trouble*. In September, she took home a Creative Arts Emmy for *Feud: Capote Vs. The Swans*. Set in the mid-1970s, the FX limited series chronicles the relationships between author Truman Capote and a group of New York City socialites. It is the type of show where the costuming — full of diamonds, furs and all manner of elegant designs — is one of its biggest draws.

For Katznelson, the moment carried larger significance. "It [felt] very much like not just an acknowledgement of the work of this particular show, of which I'm very proud, but also of working in this industry more or less since I graduated from school. Like a culmination of joy and honor and respect for a lot of the work that's gone into the last 20-plus years."

An architecture major, Katznelson began in the film and television industry in production design. But as an assistant on the final season of *Sex and the City*, she found herself being drawn in a different direction. "I started to feel like the scale that I wanted to work on was the human body — that I was interested in taking the elements that I thought about, texture and scale and other things, and applying it on a micro level." She also wanted more collaboration. "I liked working with people. I realized, buildings can't talk to me," she says.

Surprisingly, Katznelson doesn't consider herself a clothes person. "I don't follow every beat of fashion," she says. "What I really like is storytelling. It's like when you're reading a novel, and you get to imagine the characters in your head. That's what I get to do every time I read a script."

She favors contemplative, human stories, and has a passion for research. But for a historically based project like *Feud*, research shouldn't be confused with attempting to recreate reality.

"It's a balance," she says. "We're working with actors who are embodying these characters, so our job is to support that transformation. Our goal was not to fully replicate head to toe what somebody would have worn. It was more to help paint a feeling."

Get the story at **college.columbia.edu/cct**

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ODYSSEY MENTORING PROGRAM

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Columbia College Today

Summer 2025

DRIVING NEW CONVERSATIONS

JOURNALIST TRISHA MUKHERJEE '21 BRINGS PERIOD POVERTY TO THE FOREFRONT

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME

DECADES OF ROOTING FOR THE YANKEES KEEPS TWO CC'83 ALUMS CLOSE

DANCE SENSATIONS

CHLOÉ ARNOLD '02 AND MAUD ARNOLD '08 ARE TAPPING INTO NEW AUDIENCES

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— DIYA SHAH CC'28

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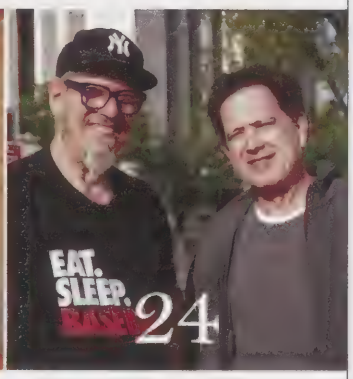

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Congratulations to the Class of 2025!

More than 1,300 College seniors became alumni at Class Day.

Cover: Photograph by Jörg Meyer

CCT | Columbia College Today

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Who Are We Becoming?

EILEEN BARROSO

The following is adapted from Dean Josef Sorett's remarks at Class Day on May 20. He opened with a poem from Rainer Maria Rilke's Book of Hours.

Let everything happen to you: beauty and terror.
Just keep going. No feeling is final …

Nearby is the country they call life.
You will know it by its seriousness.

Any accounting of recent events — whether local, national or global — speaks to a pace of change and disruption that can be hard to process, let alone keep up with. A world of consequence and urgency. Beauty and terror, crisis and opportunity, at once. Full of seriousness to be sure, but also of hope and — most certainly on a day like today — an abundance of joy. Rilke reminds us that none of these feelings are final, and we would do well to remember that this is as much a new beginning as an end.

So, amidst this flood of feelings I found myself returning to a basic question: Who are we becoming?

In *Democracy in America,* Alexis de Tocqueville writes, "Without common ideas, there is no common action, and without common action men still exist, but a social body does not." Our society, at any level, cannot function without some shared frame of reference. What, then, results when we lose our ability to recognize something shared across our differences?

If we fail to consider our mutual responsibilities — the question of what we owe to each other, that the "I" must be understood in relation to the "we" — each of us is left with, what? A mix of insular ambition, narrow self-interest and factional striving?

If this sounds all too familiar, whether in the context of our campus community or some larger stage, it is a situation in which each of us bears a responsibility. How do we find a path forward? What options are open to us? Which are closed? And what possible futures will be foreclosed if we fail to apprehend the "we"?

There are no easy answers to these questions. It takes patience and an openness to the possibility that strangers who embody every imaginable kind of difference — even purported adversaries — can find and pursue a common purpose. This is the power that the idea of this academic community holds, a vision that is as socially inclusive as it is intellectually expansive.

The process of learning and living together, of learning to live together, is neither simple nor direct. Indeed, the complexity and conflicts that delimit the path you have been on is as much a part of your education as time spent in the classroom — a shared context defined by balancing the pursuit and pulls of academic excellence, civic engagement and personal well-being. It took time to find your way.

The role you have played in each other's success did not require you to agree with one another, or even to agree with what you were being taught. In fact, it required you to disagree, to challenge one another, to interrogate your instructors and even this institution, and to learn from all of these experiences. Above all, I hope, it required that you respect one another.

Columbia is not a simple place, but the world "beyond the Gates," as we say, is orders of magnitude more dynamic, nuanced, complex — filled with both beauty and terror on a different scale.

I hope you will stay patient.

Not patience in the face of injustice. Not complacency with the state of the world. We expect that you will continue to struggle to make this world a better place — you are Lions, after all. But that struggle requires us to stay open to possibility, a precondition for the building of common ground.

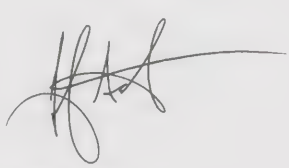
My hope for you is that you will be patient with and extend grace to the people you encounter along the way. Good people get it wrong every single day. People of integrity don't always make the best decisions. Not one of us is not in the process of becoming.

None of us here today know who you — or who we — will become as the years unfold. But I do know that you, and that we, have the tools to build a life of engagement, achievement and sustained learning.

Each of us, and all of us together — we get to *choose* who we are becoming.

It is my firm belief that before me sit the leaders, thinkers and principled actors who will help forge a brighter future. I say belief and not merely hope because, throughout Columbia College's long history, those who came before you have done just that.

And so, Class of 2025, I leave you with my most sincere salutations, with confidence in your capacity to face forward with grace, and my deepest respect. Good luck on the journey ahead.



Josef Sorett
Dean of Columbia College and the Henry L. and Lucy G. Moses Professor; Vice President for Undergraduate Education; Professor of Religion and African American & African Diaspora Studies

By the Lights of Low Plaza

More than 1,400 alumni and guests turned out for Columbia Reunion 2025. The three days of events, from May 29 to May 31, culminated with Saturday night's Starlight Celebration, where overcast skies did nothing to cloud the spirits on Low Plaza. Attendees came together from class dinners and other events to dance, laugh and reconnect with friends. To see more pics from Starlight and throughout the weekend, go to facebook.com/alumnicc/photos.

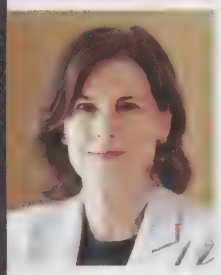
SIRIN SAMMAN

the Big Picture

Around the Quads

Shipman Named Acting President

Claire Shipman '86, SIPA'94 became acting president of Columbia University on March 28, following the decision by Interim President Katrina A. Armstrong to return to her primary role as CEO of the Columbia University Irving Medical Center.



EILEEN BARROSO

Claire Shipman

Shipman — a distinguished journalist, author and leading voice for the advancement of women's leadership — had been co-chair of the Board of Trustees since 2023, and a trustee since 2013. "I assume this role with a clear understanding of the serious challenges before us and a steadfast commitment to act with urgency and integrity, and to work with our faculty to advance our mission, implement needed reforms, protect our students, and uphold academic freedom and open inquiry," she said.

With the BBC's Katty Kay, Shipman has co-written four *New York Times* bestsellers, including *The Confidence Code* and *The Power Code.* She also is a renowned international and political journalist, having reported for CNN, NBC and ABC. She spent 15 years as a senior correspondent and substitute anchor for ABC's *Good Morning America.* She also was a White House correspondent for NBC News, covering presidential policy for *Nightly News* and *Today.*

Shipman received a DuPont and an Emmy Award for her coverage of the 1989 Tiananmen Square student uprising, a second DuPont Award for reporting on the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing and a Peabody Award as part of CNN's team covering the failed 1993 Soviet coup. From the College, she has received a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement as well as the Alexander Hamilton Medal.

Meanwhile, the Presidential Search Committee has begun its work, co-chaired by Board of Trustees Chair Emeritus Jonathan S. Lavine '88 and Trustee Andrew Barth '83, BUS'85. The committee intends to name a new president as soon as practicable, with a goal of the individual taking office no later than Jan. 1, 2026.

New Trustees Co-Chair

Jeh Johnson LAW'82 has been elected co-chair of the University's Board of Trustees. He will serve alongside David Greenwald LAW'83, who became co-chair in 2023.

Johnson is the 2021 recipient of The American Lawyer's Lifetime Achievement Award, as an American statesman who "has devoted his career to the public interest." He served in the Obama administration as general counsel of the Department of Defense from 2009 to 2012 and secretary of Homeland Security from 2013 to 2017. Previously, Johnson was general counsel of the Department of the Air Force and assistant U. S. attorney for the Southern District of New York. He is also on the Board of Directors of MetLife and the 9/11 Memorial & Museum.

Jeh Johnson

Johnson is retiring from Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, where he had been a partner, in order to dedicate significant time to Columbia.

Trilling and Van Doren Awards

Ying Qian, an associate professor of East Asian languages and cultures, and Eleanor Johnson, a professor of English and comparative literature, have been chosen for the 50th annual Lionel Trilling Book Award and the 64th annual Mark Van Doren Award for Teaching, respectively. The awards are given by the Academic Awards Committee of the Columbia College Student Council.

Qian, who teaches classes on East Asian cinema, Chinese media cultures, documentary cinema, and comparative media theory and history, was honored for *Revolutionary Becomings: Documentary Media in Twentieth-Century China.* The book excavates documentary filmmaking's multi-faceted productivities in China's revolutionary movements, from the toppling of the Qing Empire in 1911 to the political campaigns and mass protests in the Mao and post-Mao eras. The committee noted it "made the complex links between documentary filmmaking and political upheaval clear and accessible."

JILL SHOMER

Ying Qian Eleanor Johnson

Of Johnson, the committee agreed she represents "the best of what Columbia has to offer," praising her care for her students, her ability to lead and motivate both small and large groups, and her embrace of "the thoughts and ideas of her students, inspiring them to think beyond what is said in class." Johnson, who teaches Literature Humanities, medieval literature and theology, and the literature and cinema of horror, is the first professor to receive the Van Doren Award and Trilling Book Award in consecutive years (and only the fourth professor to receive both awards in the College's history). She was honored with the Trilling Award in 2024 for *Waste and the Wasters: Poetry and Ecosystemic Thought in Medieval England* (2023).

Welcome, Class of 2029

A total of 2,557 applicants were offered admission to the Class of 2029 by Columbia College and Columbia Engineering.

Undergraduate Admissions announced the news in March, and reported that the schools received 59,616 applications during the early decision and regular decision cycles. It was one of the largest applicant pools in Columbia history.

The admitted class hails from all 50 U.S. states (as well as American Samoa, the District of Columbia, Guam, the Mariana Islands and Puerto Rico) and 115 countries. About half of admitted students at the time of the announcement had been offered financial aid. Columbia College is committed to covering students' full demonstrated need, without loans and regardless of citizenship.

West Coast Honors

The Columbia College Alumni Association held its third annual West Coast Honors, with ceremonies held on March 19 in San Francisco and March 20 in Los Angeles. At each event, two awards were presented: the Trailblazer Award, which honors individuals for their pioneering and distinguished service or volunteerism to the College, and the Spirit of Creativity and Innovational Award, for exceptional professional achievement.

The 2025 Trailblazer Award went to Wah Chen '92, an affordable housing real estate developer, and founder and partner at InSite Development, and Wanda Marie Holland Greene '89, TC'21, head of school at The Hamlin School. The 2025 Spirit of Creativity and Innovation Award went to sisters Chloé Arnold '02 and Maud Arnold '08, dancers, choreographers and producing partners (see cover story on page 14), and Satyen Sangani '97, co-founder and CEO at Alation.

UCI Expands Programming

The Undergraduate Community Initiative (UCI) has concluded its second year, with the addition of two first-time undergraduate fellowships stewarded by the Center for the Core Curriculum. Both build upon the foundation of the Core classroom, which fosters community even as students debate and work through ideas that may be very different from their own.

"One of the primary goals driving UCI — and its themes of belonging, service and respect — is forging deeper connections between what students do in the classroom and what they do in their personal lives," Dean Josef Sorett says. "Ours is a residential academic community and, as such, what students learn from each other, and how they engage with each other in community, is as much a part of their education as what they learn in the academic setting."

The Practices in Community Building Fellowship focused students on developing projects that bring people together on campus. Central to that was the collaborative aspect; 25 fellows worked in small groups based on their areas of interest (for example, service, storytelling or the arts) to hone their project ideas and begin bringing them to life. The entire cohort also met regularly to hear from guest speakers and discuss assigned readings that tie to the Core, while carving out time individually for volunteerism and reflection.

The Listening Tables Core Student Fellowship, meanwhile, was undertaken in partnership with the Trust Collaboratory and emphasized *how* students engage with others. Students — who were put in one of two groups — explored ways to navigate discussions about potentially divisive topics with mutual empathy and respect, and documented what it's like to be part of difficult dialogues.

The fellows group received training in conflict resolution, then led small-group dialogues where participants from a range of backgrounds and perspectives could talk with one another about the difficult and polarizing issues of our time. The ambassadors group used a research method known as "photo voice," where participants took photographs to capture their experiences at the Listening Tables and in other dialogues, then analyzed their images in order to share their insights with others.

"I have always had confidence in the ability of our students to consider and discuss divergent views because I have watched them do it again and again in the Core," says Larry Jackson, director of the Core Curriculum. "The students in these fellowship programs grappled with some of the most contentious issues of our time, bringing respect, empathy and nuance to those conversations. They have told us that their involvement in these programs has given them hope that change is possible, even as they have developed a deeper understanding of the challenges that make community building and dialogue difficult. Most importantly, the students who have gone through these programs are eager to carry on the work that they started this year."

BRANDON VALLEJO

Keynote speaker Ben Jealous '94's nephew and nieces were in attendance at the MLK event. Left to right: Dean Josef Sorett, Dylan Farley '25, Nina Feldman BC'25, Emma Farley '27 and Jealous.

This year's UCI programming also featured the second annual celebration of the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr., on Jan. 30, with civil rights and environmental leader Ben Jealous '94 as the keynote speaker. In March, a new event, Celebrating Service: Get Inspired to Give Back, was hosted in collaboration with Community Impact. And Theater of War returned to campus in early April, this time to present "The King Lear Project." The performance featured streamlined readings of scenes from Shakespeare's famous tragedy, which students had recently read in Literature Humanities, followed by a guided conversation with audience members about the responsibilities of leadership and challenges of caring for loved ones and friends. (Actors David Strathairn, Hope Davis, Chad Coleman and Daphne Rubin-Vega were among the cast members.)

The Community Engagement Mini-Grants were also continued, with funding from $500 to $1,500 awarded in support of campus events that cultivated one or more of UCI's key values. In the Spring semester, nearly $20,000 was given across 19 events; programming was free to students and welcoming to all. Events ranged from an a cappella festival featuring all of Columbia's groups, to a spring social for first-years from Columbia College, Columbia Engineering and Barnard College, to a student council-sponsored iftar, where students from all backgrounds could learn about Ramadan and have a meal together.

"Looking to the future," Sorett says, "with plans already in the works to expand on this year's success, we see UCI becoming part of the fabric of the College's integrative approach to an undergraduate experience."

Five Professors Share What It's Like To Teach in the Core

The Core Curriculum has been the cornerstone of a Columbia College education since its inception in 1919. In 2023, we launched the online series "Core Conversations"; each month we speak with a Core instructor to learn what they love about engaging with College students. The series has allowed us to hear firsthand what the curriculum means to the professors and lecturers who are guiding the latest generation, along with how they're evolving their approaches to suit the world today. Read on for a sampling of what they had to say; check out the full interviews at college.columbia.edu.

LITERATURE HUMANITIES

EMMA ASHER

Caio Moraes Ferreira GSAS'21
Lecturer in the discipline of French; has been teaching in the Core for five years, while earning a Ph.D. in French and comparative literature

What is the best part about teaching in the Core Curriculum?
There's something to be said about encountering first-year students in the moment they come into this university, and having discussions about literature with people who don't have a predisposition to go to literature courses, and being able to put them in contact with people who are already sold on literature — that particular mix is very cool. The Core really does allow for that in a unique way.

It's also cool to be able to be there for them — coming into a university as diverse and complex as Columbia, to be able to help them digest it all and help them develop a routine and a sense of community. Lit Hum is often the first real experience of an intellectual community that they have, and it's often the case that our classrooms are the place where they can breathe a little bit and connect to other people, and talk about books and literature, which is always the kind of ideal that you have as a new college student.

FRONTIERS OF SCIENCE

EMMA ASHER

Amanda Quirk '17
Lecturer in the Department of Astronomy & Astrophysics; has been teaching in the Core since 2022 as a member of the Columbia Science Fellows program

What are you teaching that feels especially relevant for this year?
How to fact check; or as we say in Frontiers, how to evaluate claims. We live in this incredible era where there's so much information and it spreads really easily. Social media and the news cover science like they never did before, and now with AI, you can ask questions and immediately get answers. And this is wonderful, but it means there are so many false claims — either maliciously false, or accidentally false, or half false — that really can disrupt lives and political systems. And so I think it's such an important skill for students, as they use these tools, to realize that the tools are flawed because they were made by humans. This doesn't mean that we shouldn't use them, but once we get an answer, we need to pause and think: Does that make sense? If we see a headline and think that it is biased in any way, do we have the skills to fact-check it? I think that's incredibly important, and I think Frontiers is uniquely posed as a course to be able to do that.

ART HUMANITIES

Ioannis Mylonopoulos
Associate professor and the Jonathan Sobel and Marcia Dunn Program Chair for Art Humanities; has been teaching in the Core since 2008

What has been your favorite Core Curriculum teaching moment?
It's something that often happens after the class ends, maybe even a term or two later — I hear from Art Hum students who might be doing nothing related to the humanities, and they tell me, "I now go to a museum with my family and I have something to tell them," or "I can do art tours with my friends now." When that happens, I can see the impact of what we are doing in Art Humanities on these very young lives and minds — I would say it's the aftermath. Those are the moments that I cherish the most.

MUSIC HUMANITIES

EMILY DENNY

Hannah Kendall GSAS'24
Lecturer and composer; has been teaching in the Core since 2020

How do you innovate and/or bring your own spin to Music Hum?
Because I'm a practicing composer, I think that students appreciate my personal perspective about the historical composers we study, and how their contexts and environments influenced the music they were writing. I can speak specifically about writing for orchestra, and so if we're considering how Beethoven might have felt when he was writing the Fifth Symphony, I can reference how I feel when I'm presenting a new orchestral work for the first time — the insecurities and vulnerabilities, the living, breathing experience of it. It's great to be able to communicate with that level of detail.

Also, I think on the whole that students generally know about songwriters, but not necessarily about living composers who are writing contemporary classical music. I like that they're able to ask me about that, or about my colleagues who are musicologists and theorists and might have a personal take about whatever we're discussing on the syllabus.

CONTEMPORARY CIVILIZATION

EMMA ASHER

Prashant Iyengar LAW'10, GSAS'23
Lecturer; Iyengar earned a Ph.D. in Middle Eastern, South Asian and African studies and has been teaching in the Core for three years

How do you innovate and/or bring your own spin to CC?
Because I'm a lawyer, I've been able to bring a lot of case law, both ongoing and historical, into my classroom; for example, there's a lot of Native American case law from the U.S. Supreme Court in the 1820s that's relevant to the modules on the Conquest of Americas and Locke. I've used questions from recent New York Bar exams during our discussions on Aristotle and drawn from Title VII employment discrimination cases in our classes on Race and Gender. Students are obviously not required to know the law, but court cases usefully animate the ethical and moral implications of the theories we study. Sometimes an answer students encounter in a philosophical text from 2,000 years ago turns out to be not very different from the conclusion that a court reached maybe 10–20 years ago.

I also come from a nonprofit background — I used to represent tenants in housing court and I worked at various NGOs in India — so I think I bring that sensibility about justice into my course. And thirdly, I'm a person from South Asia, which has both a violent and exploitative colonial past, and, for the last decade, a right-wing majoritarian party in power in India. I use this history as a pedagogical resource — South Asian events sometimes offer a neutral ground for students in my class to work through their ideas.

Student *Spotlight*

Sean Kuehn '26

EMMA ASHER

Sean Kuehn '26 (he/him) is the president of the Columbia University Society for Baseball Research. Now in its sixth year, the club recently entered a new phase of growth with a partnership between Lions baseball and the SABRLions, a subgroup of CUSBR that builds data analytics tools for the varsity team's players and coaches. A political science major from Sand Springs, Okla., Kuehn is a New York Mets fan.

How does someone from Oklahoma become a diehard Met fan?
When he was growing up, my stepdad picked which baseball team he rooted for based on who was doing the worst at the time. So I've always been a Met fan just from my family. My first game was at the 2015 World Series in Kansas City. There aren't many Met fans in Oklahoma, so getting to go to New York was a dream. I think for most of my first year I spent more time at Citi Field than I did in class because I was so excited to be close enough to go to games.

What are CUSBR meetings like?
We usually meet once a week. Each meeting looks a bit different, depending on whether we have a guest speaker or are watching a game. With each meeting, we're either trying to grow our own research and analytics skills or bring in a professional to provide guidance on what a career in the sports industry looks like. But we still keep it very casual. I think what's made it so special is that we have opportunities for people who want to spend all of their time on baseball analytics, but other opportunities for people who are more interested in baseball history. And we have a few members who just want to chat about what happened in a game that week, so we have opportunities for them, too. It's been a really great community to build.

Tell me more about the SABRLions.
We've been developing a website that will have all of the baseball team's analytics and be a home for all of its data. We haven't had a centralized hub for all of it before now. There are tools that can evaluate strength, speed and other measurements for pitching and field alignment. We're working on condensing those large datasets and getting it into the coaches' and players' hands.

What's your favorite class?
"Weapons of Mass Destruction," with Szabolcs Márka. It's been a favorite because it was one of the most challenging. I came out of it with a new understanding of nuclear weapons. I now have background for my political science classes, which I can bring in whenever we're talking about how nuclear development plays into interactions between countries. That opportunity to learn outside of the explicit domain of your declared major has been one of the coolest experiences at Columbia.

How are you taking advantage of being in NYC (aside from going to Met games)?
I love the arts. I love being here and getting to see shows and support my friends. I have some friends from Oklahoma who are at Juilliard, so getting to support them and go to their performances has been really special.

In Memoriam: William E. Leuchtenburg GSAS'51, Professor of History, Expert on the U.S. Presidency and FDR

DAN SEARS / U.N.C.-CHAPEL HILL

William E. Leuchtenburg GSAS'51, a prize-winning historian widely admired for his authoritative writings on the U.S. presidency and the reigning scholar on Franklin D. Roosevelt and the New Deal, died on Jan. 28, 2025, at his home in Chapel Hill, N.C. He was 102.

A beloved and respected professor at Columbia and then at the University of North Carolina, he also was a prolific author, with a publishing career that spanned more than 70 years, beginning with *Flood Control Politics: The Connecticut River Valley Problem, 1927–1950* (1953) and ending with *Patriot Presidents: George Washington to John Quincy Adams* (2024). Leuchtenburg profoundly influenced how scholars and the public understand the political, social and economic dynamics of 20th-century America. His ability to blend meticulous scholarship with engaging writing made his works accessible not only to academics, but also to general readers.

Leuchtenburg was born on Sept. 28, 1922, in Ridgewood, which straddles the Brooklyn-Queens border, the first child of a German-American father, William, who was a post office worker, and an Irish immigrant mother, Lauretta C. (née McNamara), who grew up in Hell's Kitchen. His fascination with politics was triggered when his parents allowed him to stay up to listen to a radio broadcast of the 1932 Democratic National Convention; he tracked delegate votes for FDR with the same attention he kept for baseball scorecards. At 12, he earned enough money tutoring neighborhood kids to fund a nine-hour bus ride to Washington, D.C., where he had a "wide-eyed" tour of the White House, as well as visits to the Capitol and the recently built Supreme Court building.

In 1939, Leuchtenburg left Queens for Ithaca, N.Y., where he attended Cornell with support from State Regents scholarships and earnings from summer jobs. There, he got jobs cleaning test tubes and typing professors' manuscripts via the National Youth Administration, an agency established under the New Deal.

After earning a B.A. in European history in 1943 and being inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, Leuchtenburg enrolled at GSAS, with a focus on modern American history; he completed a Ph.D. in 1951. After teaching at NYU, Smith College and Harvard, he returned to Columbia as the DeWitt Clinton Professor of History. Across the next 30 years, Leuchtenburg developed a national reputation as a leading expert on FDR's presidency; he was presented an honorary degree by Columbia in 2008.

In 1982, Leuchtenburg relocated to work at the University of North Carolina; he taught history for two more decades and retired as the William Rand Kenan, Jr., Distinguished Professor. He continued to serve on the UNC Press Board of Governors and perform other roles for the university. UNC-Chapel Hill presented him the honorary degree of Humane Letters in 2021.

Leuchtenburg was a visiting professor at Cornell, Harvard, the College of William & Mary, the University of Richmond and Bowdoin, among other universities, and held the Harmsworth Chair at the University of Oxford.

Of his many books, *Franklin D. Roosevelt and the New Deal, 1932–1940* is deemed by many to be his most influential. It received both the Bancroft Prize and the Francis Parkman Prize when it was published in 1963. Fondly remembered by generations of students is *The Perils of Prosperity* (1958), which traces the history of the United States from WWI to the peak of the Great Depression. Other notable works include *The Supreme Court Reborn: The Constitutional Revolution in the Age of Roosevelt* (1995), *The FDR Years: On Roosevelt and His Legacy* (1997), *The American President: From Teddy Roosevelt to Bill Clinton* (2015) and *In the Shadow of FDR* (1983), which was periodically updated, as it explored how FDR's successors attempted to shun and/or embrace his legacy. At the time of his death, Leuchtenburg was working on a new edition that would have included President Biden.

For more than four decades, Leuchtenburg collaborated with Ken Burns on documentaries, including the landmark miniseries on baseball, one of Leuchtenburg's enduring passions, and *The Roosevelts;* he appeared on camera in two of Burns' works. He was enlisted by landscape architect Lawrence Halprin to select the quotations carved into the granite of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial in Washington, D.C., which opened in 1997. He also was an election analyst for NBC News and provided commentary on presidential inaugurations for PBS and CBS.

Leuchtenburg was president of the American Historical Association, the Organization of American Historians and the Society of American Historians, a trifecta honor that only he and Eric Foner '63, GSAS'69 have accomplished.

Leuchtenburg's first marriage, to Jean McIntire, ended in divorce. In 1985, he married Jean Anne Williams, who became his editor and assistant; she survives him. He is also survived by his sons, Thomas, Christopher and Joshua LAW'84, and stepson, Christopher Williams; their spouses, Lucy, Laurie, Tamara BUS'85 and Penny Rodrick-Williams; six grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

This Was Not Written By a Machine

By Larry Jackson

A friend recently asked me why we still assign papers now that students can use large language models like ChatGPT to produce them. "Aren't papers obsolete?" he asked. "People don't need to know how to ride horses now that we have cars."

It was the wrong analogy, I told him. Writing is a way of thinking, not a means for reaching your destination quickly.

Decades before the advent of generative artificial intelligence (AI), Hannah Arendt, one of the authors that our students encounter in Contemporary Civilization, made a distinction between cogitation and thinking. Arendt described cogitation as the "technical, logical operation which electronic machines may be better equipped to perform." Thinking, in contrast, "arises out of the actuality of incidents" and is bound to "living experience" as its guidepost or focus.

EMMA ASHER

Core Curriculum director Larry Jackson

Real thinking — unlike artificial intelligence — requires a biography, a personality and the cares and commitments that define our character. When we think, we confront the world and its history, as well as events in our lives, however great or small.

This is one of the reasons why the best defense we have against the threat that AI poses to academic integrity is not cutting-edge technology, but old-fashioned pedagogy. Instructors who know their students can judge whether their essays are original far more reliably than an online AI detector. They will recognize their students' interests and ideas from class discussions and office hours. They will know their students' styles as writers from working closely with them on assignments. And when the instructor comes across the rigid, generic prose of a large language model, it will be like hearing the tinny sound of a robot from an old sci-fi movie rather than the student's voice.

Developing and promoting such AI-proofing strategies in our classes is one of the three tasks that a group of Core Curriculum instructors are now tackling thanks to the generosity of Judith and Marshall Meyer '64, who have made a gift to the College that enables faculty to experiment with generative AI and share their findings with colleagues in discussions and reports.

Second, these instructors are exploring how AI can be used to enhance assignments and other aspects of the Core experience without compromising the interpretation, critical judgment and collaborative thinking that are the hallmarks of our curriculum.

The third task that the Meyer Innovation Fund will enable us to take on is the one raised by my friend: showing a skeptical world why the painstaking work of interpreting works and testing ideas in writing and discussion will never go the way of the horse and buggy.

For Arendt, the great exemplar of thinking was the ancient philosopher Socrates, whose endless questions to his fellow Athenians — "What is justice?" "What is beauty?" "What is the Good?" — led nowhere fast. Socrates' discussions with his interlocutors, which Plato memorialized in his dialogues, regularly ended without resolution in what the Greeks called "aporia" or perplexity.

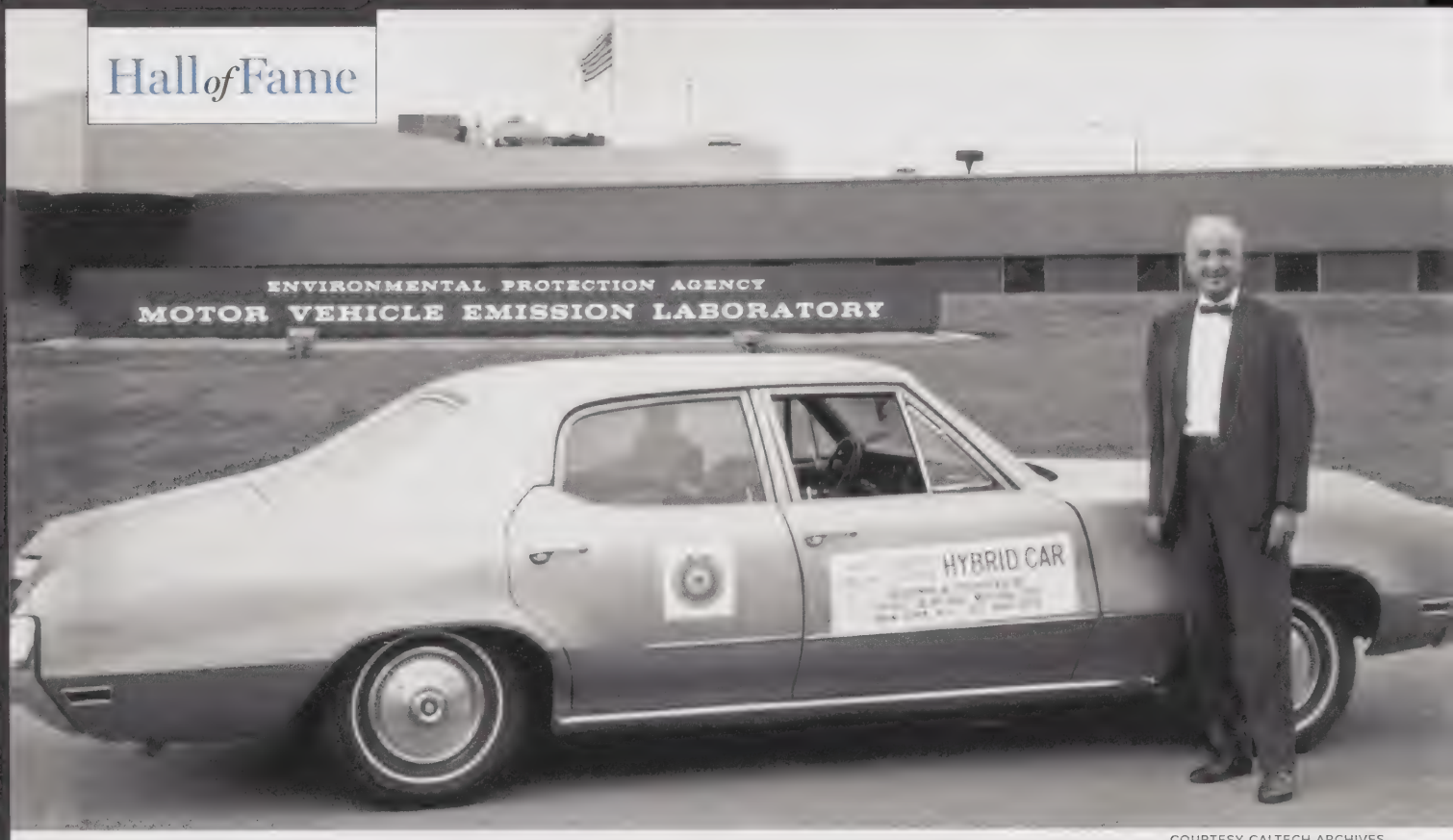
This is exactly where we want the Core to lead students: not to the firm ground of certainty, but to the terra incognita of inquiry and doubt. No machine can get us

there — only our living minds, in dialogue with texts that provoke perplexity and invite discussion with other people.

Arendt thought that many of the problems of human affairs were caused by an inability to think. In her view, the internal "two-in-one" dialogue of thinking was the origin of conscience. Arendt even defined her controversial concept of "the banality of evil" as thoughtlessness, or the "almost total inability ever to look at anything from the other fellow's point of view."

But Arendt was also concerned with problems of meaning. Her works are full of conceptual distinctions like the difference between work and labor or power and force. Such nuances matter if you wish to grapple with the complexities of reality. Writing forces us to think carefully about the meaning of our words and to choose them deliberately — something that even those who use AI to produce speeches and memos, as my skeptical friend often does, must be able to do if they are to judge the quality and accuracy of a large language model's output.

Whatever AI can produce for us, it can't give us answers to the questions that we are all bound to ask at some point, which concern not only the definitions of our words, but also the meaning of our lives. Whether moral, political, existential or aesthetic, when we are faced with such questions — "How should I live?" "What are my rights and obligations?" "What makes this beautiful?" — we shouldn't rush to answer them. We should instead heed Arendt's advice to "stop and think."



COURTESY CALTECH ARCHIVES

The "Godfather of the Hybrid"

By Emily Driehaus

Victor Wouk '39 helped steer the automotive industry toward a greener and cleaner future

When the Toyota Prius was introduced in 1997, it was nothing short of revolutionary. As the first mass-produced hybrid electric vehicle available to consumers, it became an icon in pop culture and the auto industry. Other car manufacturers scrambled to produce their own hybrids, and celebrities bought them to signal their trendy environmental awareness.

But the Prius would not have been a success without Victor Wouk '39, whom many consider the "godfather of the hybrid."

Wouk was born in the Bronx in 1919. The younger brother of novelist Herman Wouk CC 1934, he followed in his brother's footsteps and enrolled in the College to study math and physics with the hope of attending the California Institute of Technology for graduate school. While at the College, Wouk wrote for *Spectator* and assisted with Edwin Armstrong SEAS 1913's research on television broadcasting.

In May 1939, Wouk was instrumental in the successful broadcast of the Columbia-Princeton baseball game, the first live sporting event televised in the United States. At the time, the Empire State Building was the only transmitting tower in the area, and there was no way to connect it with the equipment at Baker Field about nine miles away. Philosophy Hall, however, had an antenna for television research that could be used. The only problem? It pointed in the wrong direction. So Wouk volunteered to climb onto the roof to orient the antenna toward Baker Field.

"One of the faculty was up there with me, but he was down at the bottom of the slant, to relay to me how the picture was coming along," Wouk told Caltech archivist Judith Goodstein in a 2004 oral history interview. "I stood there and rotated it until he said 'Hey, that's it! Leave it there!'"

After leaving his mark on that historic television event, Wouk graduated, packed up a car and embarked on a cross-country road trip to Caltech. While he originally planned to earn a master's in electrical engineering in one year, he was redirected toward a Ph.D. researching automobiles and electricity — the two fields that would later define his career. Wouk graduated with his Ph.D. in electrical engineering in 1942 and worked on various projects, like AC/DC converters, for the next two decades. It wasn't until 1962 when cars and electricity once again sparked his interest.

Russell Feldman, one of the founders of Motorola, approached Wouk with questions about making all-electric vehicles. Feldman asked him to take a look at a few mid-century Renault Dauphines that had been outfitted with electric motors and batteries. Although Wouk concluded that the batteries did not have enough strength to power the car very far, he started thinking about how to integrate batteries into conventional, gasoline-powered cars. His hybrid dreams didn't gel with the priorities of the decade, however. With mounting advocacy against air pollution and the passage of the landmark Clean Air Act in 1970, electric vehicle development was all the rage.

"I spoke to several organizations about hybrids, and nobody was interested," he told Goodstein.

Wouk started a new company solely focused on developing a hybrid vehicle: Petro-Electric Motors, named by Herman. The EPA's Federal Clean Car Incentive Program had been formed in response to the Clean Air Act, so Petro-Electric Motors put in a bid for a contract to develop a car for the program. It was awarded the contract in 1971 with the potential to recoup its investment if its car was chosen for nationwide testing.

Wouk and his colleagues secured a 1972 Buick Skylark, mainly because it had the most amount of space under the hood for Wouk to install the necessary electronics. They outfitted it with a small-yet-powerful Mazda Wankel engine and an electric motor that would help start the car and give it extra power, with the batteries regaining partial charges as the car braked.

And it worked.

The hybrid Skylark passed the EPA's final emissions tests with flying colors. It was the only prototype from the incentive program to make it that far, as the other participants dropped out. The test results were sent to the EPA to be evaluated, but despite their success, the agency decided not to continue with the hybrid's development.

Undeterred, Wouk and Petro-Electric Motors tried to entice commercial investors with their design, but nothing materialized. The company closed, and Wouk began consulting on various electrical engineering projects, including those focused on hybrid electric vehicles. His hybrid Skylark and the EPA's program were essentially lost to time. In 1993, when the Clinton administration announced the Partnership for a New Generation of Vehicles, Wouk asked officials about the Federal Clean Car Incentive Program from the '70s. As he told archivist Goodstein in their interview, none of them had heard of it.

The Toyota Prius made its debut in Japan in 1997, utilizing the same basic principles as Wouk's Skylark. He never stopped advocating for hybrids, and said in 2004 that he felt vindicated, as he had received apologies from colleagues who initially disagreed with his perspective.

What's more, Wouk had the chance to sample his victory before his death in 2005: As soon as it became available in the United States, Wouk leased a white 2001 Toyota Prius.

Did*You*Know?

Columbia's First Female Academic Was an Astronomer

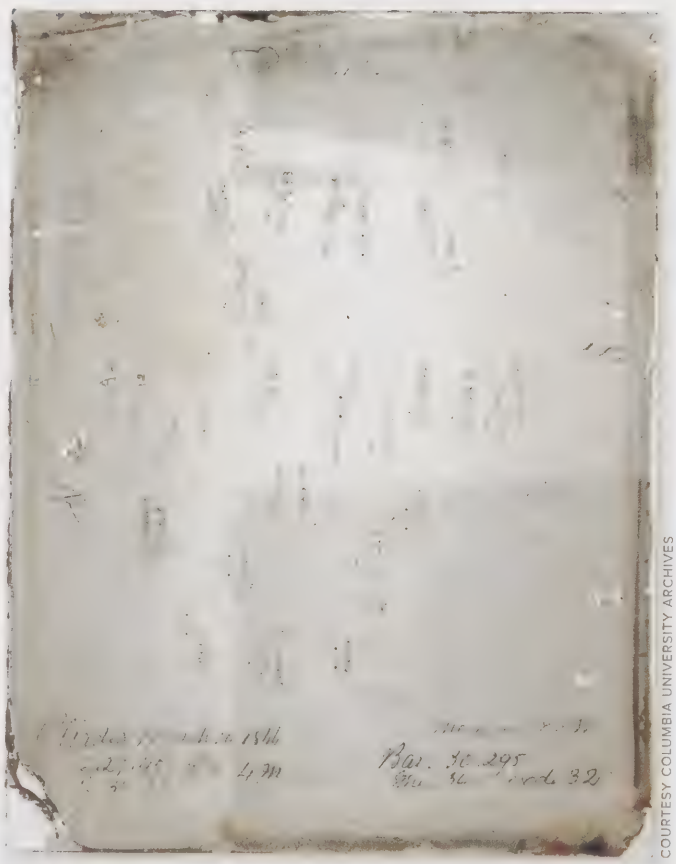
When we think of a computer, we typically think of the foldable device that fits in a bag and gets schlepped to school, coffee shops, and between the office and home. We'd be lost without its ability to store all our information and perform tasks and calculations.

The University's astronomy department in the 19th century probably would have been lost without its "computer," too: Flora Ellen Harpham.

Harpham was hired in 1896 after graduating from Carleton College in Minnesota and teaching astronomy at Smith College in Massachusetts, becoming the first woman on Columbia's academic staff. As a computer — one of the few ways women could be involved in science in the late 1800s and early 1900s — she was brought on to measure and analyze photographs of astronomical objects using a specialized tool called a micrometer.

Harpham worked on a collection of glass plate photographs of star clusters taken by Lewis Morris Rutherfurd, an astronomer and University trustee who pioneered the use of astrophotography. Rutherfurd donated his photographs to Columbia, and Harpham helped map stars in the Cygnus (swan) and Pleiades (seven sisters) constellations from the images. She eventually became the chief computer, leading a team of women who were mostly graduates of and students from Vassar College. She published articles about her work and methodology in *Popular Astronomy* magazine.

In 1908, Harpham left New York, but remained a Columbian as a professor of astronomy and mathematics at the College for Women in Columbia, S.C. From Harpham's hiring in 1896, it would be another four decades until Ruth Benedict GSAS 1923, an assistant professor of anthropology, became the first woman to achieve tenure at the University, in 1937.



COURTESY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Astronomical glass plate of Pleiades constellation from the Lewis Morris Rutherfurd photographs.

DANCE DANCE REVOLUTION

By Alexis Boncy SOA'11

Chloé Arnold '02 and Maud Arnold '08 are tapping into the sensibility of the next generation

Photographs by Jörg Meyer

Can you name a famous tap dancer? How about two? Any women?

Chloé Arnold '02 and Maud Arnold '08 have been asking people these questions for years. The answer — if there's an answer — is often Gregory Hines; on occasion, Savion Glover. For those who like a throwback, it might be Fred Astaire in his top hat or Gene Kelly singing in that rain.

Four names, all of them men. The Arnold sisters are not here for that.

What they are here for — as they make clear on a March night at the Staller Center on Long Island — is to turn tradition on its head. They are here to bring joy and uplift. They are here to *rock*. As part of Syncopated Ladies, they deliver 90 minutes of gloriously raucous tap, choreographed to familiar pop hits. That's not to say there aren't softer routines, even one a cappella number. But most of the time they stomp, shuffle and flap — in solos, duets and as a fivesome — with a fierceness and energy to rival any athlete.

The Arnolds have built a dedicated fan base online, dropping highly stylized dance videos several times a year. Two of the best known are set to Beyoncé: "End of Time," which catapulted the sisters to viral status after Queen Bey herself shared it on Facebook, and "Formation," whose popularity has earned the routine a place as the show's closing number.

But while the videos are the foundation on which Syncopated Ladies made their name, the Arnolds agree that nothing beats a live show. "It's amazing to reach so many people at the push of a button," says Chloé, who founded the group in 2003. "But it takes the art to a different level when you get to do it in front of an audience — to feel it in real time and have them feel you in real time. The energy is magical, and it's palpable.

Chloé (left) and Maud at ages 13 and 8.

COURTESY CHLOÉ ARNOLD '02 AND MAUD ARNOLD '08

"And then to spend time with [audience members] afterward," she adds, referring to the hours-long meet-and-greets that follow every performance. "The stories and feedback that we get, whether this is someone's first time seeing tap or they've been following us forever. We consistently hear that people feel affected, empowered and ready to go for their dreams."

Today, Syncopated Ladies represent just one facet of the sisters' ever-expanding repertoire. Both choreograph for TV and film; Chloé was behind the Scroogey musical *Spirited* and Maud, the buzzy song-and-dance mockumentary *Theater Camp*. They are also entrepreneurs, with a branded clothing line as well as a partnership creating tap shoes with Bloch (the Nike of dance footwear). And they helm the Chloé & Maud Foundation, which provides dance and entrepreneurship programming in underserved communities.

Significantly, tap is both music and dance; for the Arnolds, that duality offers a heightened capacity for impact. "It's a double way to reach people," Chloé says. "And that's very, very special."

THE ARNOLD SISTERS have six years between them. It's easy to read who's the big and who's the little sister — backstage for a photo shoot, Chloé gets parental, taking a final few seconds to adjust Maud's outfit, directing her attention away from her phone. Chloé comes across as softer spoken, whereas Maud is quick to talk and quick to laugh, with a rasp to her voice that suggests she does plenty of both. Professionally, their roles reflect their passions: Chloé is the ideas person, a creative who'll stay in the studio until all hours cutting a music mix or perfecting choreography. Maud leans toward the business side, a doer who writes grants and wrestles with logistics and generally figures out how to get everything done.

"I think we always knew we would do something together," Maud says, trying to recall if their partnership had ever been in doubt. "The way we grew up, we were always together, just from the natural course of things. We had a Scrunchee business when I was 5 and she was 11, so … yes!" That settles the question. "We've been entrepreneurs a long time."

The Arnolds were raised in Washington, D.C. Their father was a jazz aficionado who worked in public relations; their mother, from France, was a high school teacher. The two split when Chloé was 13 and Maud 7, and the girls and their brother moved with their mom into a small apartment. Money was tight, and publicly funded programs — often supported by the National Endowment for the Arts — were key to their dance education. They took master classes with the Nicholas Brothers and Gregory Hines, saw and danced in shows at the Kennedy Center and through the nonprofit Washington Performing Arts. More than that, Chloé says, "Art really saved our lives as kids. We were growing up in D.C. during the crack era, and it took us out of a challenging and tough city life."

Chloé fell in love with the form at age 9 after seeing the Hines film *Tap*. "When I think about why that spoke

Refining choreography during sound check before the Syncopated Ladies' March show at the Stoller Center.

to me, it's because he was dancing to funk music," she says. "He made tap *cool*. I couldn't wait to learn more." For Maud's part, she'd often tag along when Chloé was at the dance studio. "Finally they just gave me a scholarship," she says with a laugh. "They said, 'You're here anyway, you might as well dance.'"

Debbie Allen, the actress and dancer of *Fame* fame, became a formative influence starting in the late '90s, when she was an artist in residence at the Kennedy Center. Her first impression, however, was how the sisters handled not being chosen for one of her shows. "They were full of energy and light and joy, even though they didn't make it," Allen says. "They wanted to know what to *do*. By the time they came back, they were twirling, bouncing off the walls. I was like, 'Hurry up and cast these children.' They were so full of purpose. They *knew*. Their focus was on hitting their mark and the success of where they had to be so we could be in the room together. And they have not left the room since."

For Chloé, that initial experience performing for her idol — at 16 she was in Allen's children's musical *Brothers of the Knight* — lit a fire. "Afterward, I made sure to show up wherever Debbie was," Chloé says. "After showing up enough times with enough grit and determination, she ended up taking me under her wing."

The mentorship deepened and ultimately extended to both sisters. (Chloé lived with Allen when she first moved to Los Angeles; Maud taught at the Debbie Allen Dance Academy.) Among the most valuable lessons that Allen imparted, they say, was to be versatile and to learn how to tell stories — "because if you're always waiting for others to cast you, you might be waiting a long time." To wit: both majored in film at the College. "The other students wanted to become Scorsese," Chloé says. "My entire point was to see dance on TV and in film."

Significantly, tap is both music and dance; for the Arnolds, that duality offers a heightened capacity for impact.

Allen also urged them to push against the status quo. At the College, Chloé became aware of the contrast between her drive to learn tap history and internalize its connection to jazz — she'd go to Greenwich Village clubs with her tap shoes and ask to join the band — and what she loved to do after hours. "I'd be out dancing to all the popular music until the sun came up, having the time of my life," she says. "I eventually realized, what I was doing as a person was not what I was doing as an artist." Allen's was the voice of encouragement to try something different in her choreography — in Chloé's words, "to make it 'now,' make it of the moment; make it what you feel and what you like."

Chloé started Syncopated Ladies in 2003, inspired by an absence she noticed on Broadway. "I was not seeing Black leading female tap dancers in any shows and I

LEE TONKS PHOTOGRAPHY / COURTESY CHLOÉ AND MAUD FOUNDATION

With their mentor, actress and dancer Debbie Allen, in 2023.

thought, 'There's no outlet for me,'" she says. "We were just building out this idea that our voices mattered."

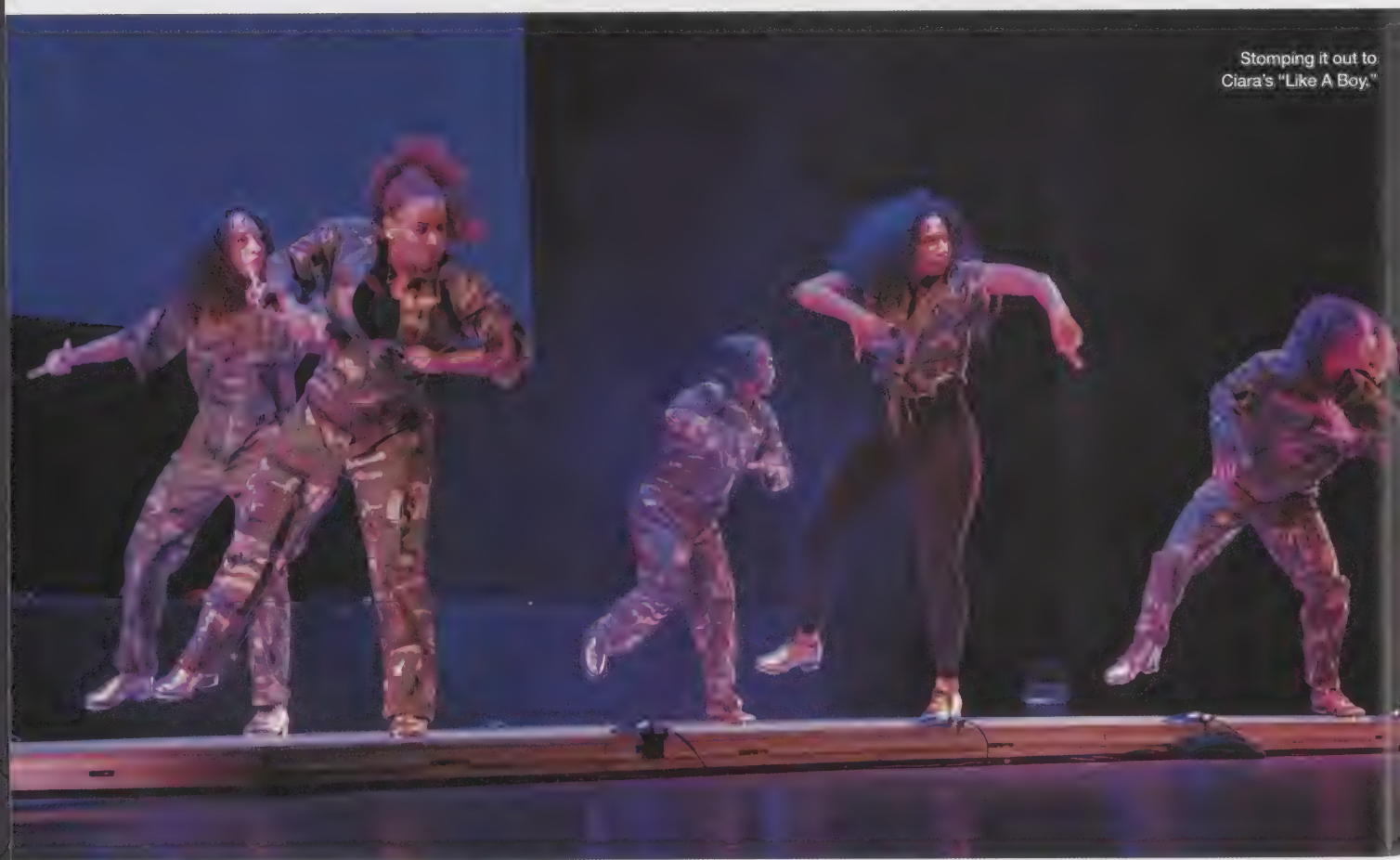
Allen let Chloé use her L.A. studio space as a home for the nascent group. At the time, troupe members ranged in age from 12 to 22; Maud, then a high school junior and still in D.C., joined, too. "They jammed all the time, but I didn't feel away from the group because when we did shows, I was around," she says. "It felt like this grand unification of women coming together for a super-special event."

Even as Syncopated Ladies was finding its footing, the Arnolds pursued other opportunities. Maud enrolled at the College and, as a sophomore, started interning for music video directors, working with the likes of Lil Wayne, Busta Rhymes and Mary J. Blige. In 2006, through Maud's connections, Chloé landed a gig tapping in a video for dancehall artist Sean Paul. Though Chloé's part in the final cut was relatively short, she was moved to create a longer routine for Syncopated Ladies. "It was the first time that I saw my expression of tap in a music video — an official one with a real pop star — and then to translate that into what we were doing, that could be performed on stage. The feeling was unreal. I knew I wanted to do it again."

It would still be seven years before the ladies' big Beyoncé breakthrough. In the interim, the Arnolds launched an early version of their business, Chloé and Maud Productions. They also continued working in the music video industry, as production and director's assistants, honing their skills and gaining the confidence to do it for themselves.

Then, in 2013, after debuting a video to Rihanna's "Where Have You Been," they choreographed one for Bey's "End of Time." With a share and a comment from the Queen herself — "They killed it" — the Arnolds' lives were changed. Today, their videos have garnered more than 200 million views online.

FOR THE ARNOLDS, tap is karma, an uplifting and empowering force that can transform lives. They brim with gratitude for the role models and opportunities they've had. And they want to put that tap-positive energy back into the world.

Largely, that happens through their Chloé & Maud Foundation. The Arnolds launched the organization in 2014, though some of its work predates its existence —

Stomping it out to Ciara's "Like A Boy."

LEE TONKS PHOTOGRAPHY / COURTESY CHLOÉ AND MAUD FOUNDATION

Hollywood Tap Fest is entering its third year, with programming for all ages and experience levels. Highlights include dance battles, jam sessions, and courses in self-esteem and entrepreneurship.

most notably, the annual DC Tap Fest, now in its 17th year. The festival is the largest of its kind in the world, open to all ages and levels. The schedule is a packed eight days of classes in tap, film and entrepreneurship, panel discussions, dance battles, jam sessions and more.

Other programs include Hollywood Tap Fest, co-produced with Allen; Sole Talk, an international youth tap company that goes beyond dance to do self-esteem building and community service; and Tap Into Life, free, after-school programming for underserved students in Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, Brazil and Cameroon.

The Arnolds are also big believers in mentorship. "Once you dance in any of our programs, you become part of our tap family, filled with incredible roots and branches," Chloé says. "We aim to connect the dots as best we can."

Case in point: Three mentees were bustling about backstage that March night at the Staller Center. Two were Ryder University students, who met the Arnolds through DC Tap Fest and were now filming a documentary about them for a school project. The other was Kaiden Currie '27, a nine-time world tap dance champion who has been in the Arnolds' orbit for years; most recently, he interned with them through the Columbia Undergraduate Scholars Program. "They've been monumental in my dance career," Currie says. "They love to uplift anyone and everyone, and I'm so thankful to have them in my corner."

Indeed, Allen says that one of their most significant contributions "is opening the technique and the art form to young people by encouraging the combination of music — that tap is pop music, is hip hop music, is *any* music.

"They have been the fusion of the classic art with the contemporary music, and where the sensibility is of young people today," Allen says. "That's what we need."

The Arnolds take great care to credit their core team, a "small but mighty crew of amazing women," Maud says. "Everyone does about 12 different jobs." After the show on Long Island, the tour continued in New Haven, Conn., a total of 17 cross-country dates that wrapped in Tennessee. But while the travel ended in March, there's still plenty ahead for 2025. Along with continuing the tap festivals, they're expanding their philanthropy (they aim to have Tap Into Life in 20 schools by the fall) and nurturing new creative projects like a children's book and tap music album. "We don't think with limits," Chloé says. "We just imagine it and we go for it."

By the way, that earlier question? About the famous female tappers? The Arnolds can name quite a few, many of them Black: the Whitman sisters, Juanita Pitts, Jeni Le Gon, Lois Bright and more. They want you to know them, too; as part of their show, they screen archival footage of these women who have danced across the stages of history, a testament to generations of under-celebrated talent and spark.

"I was not seeing Black leading female tap dancers in any shows and I thought, 'There's no outlet for me,'" Chloé says. "We were just building out this idea that our voices mattered."

The Arnolds are proud to be part of that legacy, and to carry it forward with passion and purpose — to make their impact felt. "You just have to give it your all," Maud says. "We're so thankful and we live in gratitude, because we get to do what we love and get to share it with the world."

Justice Through Journalism

Trisha Mukherjee '21, JRN'24's reporting on period poverty has helped more than 14,000 girls stay in school

By Emily Driehaus

At first, journalist Trisha Mukherjee '21, JRN'24 didn't believe what she was hearing. She was on a reporting trip in Madagascar, interviewing 16-year-old Vola Liamarinee Florence about trying to go to school while on her period in a country where menstruation is highly stigmatized. Florence told her that she regularly washed and reused disposable pads three times before discarding them, as period products are expensive and hard to come by.

Mukherjee thought she misunderstood. Surely, Florence didn't mean the thin, flimsy pads that most Westerners don't think twice about throwing away after one use?

As Mukherjee continued her questions, she soon realized Florence *was* talking about disposable menstrual pads. Washing and reusing them was her only option — and not a good one. Reused pads are prone to leaking and because menstrual blood is considered so taboo, Florence was missing about four days of school every month.

Florence's experience stuck with Mukherjee. "I started thinking about my own life — how much of a privilege it is to go to school, and to have your period just be a matter of going to the store to buy pads," she says. "And honestly, I got really mad about it. These girls weren't able to get an education because of something so natural. I realized that I really wanted to write about it."

Mukherjee brought menstrual equity to the forefront in her Jan. 4 *New York Times* article, "The Shame That Keeps Millions of Girls Out of School." Florence's story, along with anecdotes from other girls in East Africa, inspired more than $500,000 in donations to Huru International, a nonprofit Mukherjee spotlighted that makes and then distributes reusable menstrual pads to girls in need.

Mukherjee's compelling reporting came after winning *Times* columnist Nicholas Kristof's annual journalism contest in 2024. Each year, Kristof selects one undergrad-

JÖRG MEYER

COURTESY TRISHA MUKHERJEE '21, JRN'24

Nicholas Kristof and Mukherjee in Madagascar.

uate or graduate student to join him on an all-expenses-paid reporting trip to cover neglected global issues. He and Mukherjee traveled to Kenya, Mauritius and Madagascar to write about health issues facing women in those regions and to connect with nonprofits that are addressing those needs in rural communities. She wrote three stories total, but says the one about period poverty was particularly resonant.

"I talked to girls who were given reusable pads by nonprofits, and that totally changed their lives," Mukherjee says. "I also talked to girls who struggled through school and went anyway, and who are now determined to make sure other girls in their community have access to period products. It was just amazing to have those conversations and hear their perspectives."

Mukherjee's passion for human rights and storytelling stems from her own family history. Her grandmother, one of her "best friends," was a child during the 1947 partition of India, when the British ended colonial rule with hastily redrawn borders, leaving millions of Hindus and Muslims at risk of communal violence. Mukherjee's grandmother was forced to flee from her home in what is now Bangladesh.

"Suddenly, her family was on the wrong side of the border," Mukherjee says. "She had to abandon everything and cross over as her house was going up in flames."

> "The good thing about storytelling is that your age or background doesn't really matter — **stories are meant to be shared.**"

Mukherjee says she realized how fortunate she was to be trusted with her grandmother's recollections of refugee life, as well as the power of stories to illuminate injustice.

Mukherjee also cites Kristof's book *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression Into Opportunity for Women Worldwide* as a source of inspiration. After reading it as a teenager, she wanted to get involved in combating human trafficking, and looked for an organization to volunteer with. But no one would take on the liabilities associated with having a high schooler on the team.

So, Mukherjee turned to what she knew she could do to have an impact — tell stories. She reached out to activists and survivors worldwide who were fighting against human trafficking and asked for interviews. Pre-Zoom, she dipped her toe into the journalistic waters for the first time via Skype calls from her home in New Jersey.

The project culminated in a self-published book, *Leading Lights: Interviews with Anti-trafficking Activists*.

"Looking back, I really had no idea what I was doing, but I was lucky that the people I talked to were so kind and patient," she says. "The good thing about storytelling is that your age or background doesn't really matter — stories are meant to be shared."

At the College, Mukherjee studied human rights, working in legal clinics focused on assisting immigrants. Her experience helping a woman look for her brother, who had gone missing while crossing the U.S.-Mexico border, stayed with her for years.

"There are a lot of people who don't know where their family members are if they disappear crossing the border," she says. "I was calling morgues and nonprofits and search and rescue groups; we eventually located her brother. He had passed away, but it did give her a sense of closure."

Mukherjee returned to Columbia to pursue a master's at the Journalism School, where she reported on missing migrants in the Sonoran Desert for her thesis. She found even more human rights-centered narratives, including one that came out of a J-School exercise in good old-fashioned "shoe leather reporting" — hitting the street to look for ideas. While talking to a priest in the Bronx who mentioned protesting outside of a now-closed abortion clinic, Mukherjee's ears perked.

"It led me down a rabbit hole, trying to reconstruct the decades-long lifespan of this clinic that had been so central to reproductive healthcare in the borough," she says. "None of this had been covered before."

Mukherjee's piece detailed the loss of Bronx Abortion through the perspectives of volunteer escorts, all of whom recognized how hard the clinic's absence would hit the surrounding community. The work helped her to see how many of her journalistic interests overlapped.

"I realized how intersectional a lot of these issues are," Mukherjee says. "You can't report on just one in isolation."

Mukherjee's desire to spotlight injustice in her reporting made her a prime candidate for Kristof's contest. She had been eyeing it for a while, but this was the first year she felt qualified to enter. Kristof, who has been running the contest since 2006, was thoroughly impressed.

"Trisha stood out among an enormous number of applicants because she didn't just aspire to be a terrific journalist; she already was one," he says.

She and Kristof planned an 11-day trip to East Africa, deciding which organizations they would visit and the issues their reporting would focus on. Mukherjee had heard a bit about period poverty, but thought a deeper dive was warranted. She wanted to speak to girls who were facing a paralyzing decision: to miss school while on their periods and fall behind, or to risk being ostracized if they bled through their clothes.

She was surprised by how openly and candidly the girls spoke about their periods and experiences navigating societal stigmas. "It felt like they had been waiting to talk about it and how [the taboos] interfered with their school and life," she says.

Mukherjee sat down to write after returning from the trip in December 2024. She organized her notes and transcripts and, under the guidance of Kristof and his editors at the *Times*, went through rounds and rounds of editing and fact-checking. Finally, it was time for the story to go live.

"I was a little nervous because I had never published something in an outlet like *The New York Times*," Mukherjee says. "But the response was incredible."

After Huru International's work was featured by Mukherjee, the nonprofit received a flood of donations and letters. "I can't imagine what it would have been like if I didn't have even the most basic of personal care supplies," one donor wrote.

COURTESY HURU INTERNATIONAL

Girls who received Huru kits thanking Mukherjee and Kristof for their reporting at a distribution event on International Women's Day.

The impact has been profound. Thanks to more than a half-million dollars in donations, Huru was able to provide kits with reusable period products, soap, storage supplies and educational materials to 14,700 Kenyan girls.

"We are deeply moved by the generous support sparked by Trisha's powerful storytelling," says Lorna Macleod, Huru's founder and executive director. "Her reporting has driven hundreds of new conversations and several new partnerships, bringing us closer to making menstrual equity a reality."

Mukherjee knows she won't forget Florence and the other girls she met, and that she'll carry the lessons from her experience forward. In the meantime, seeing the direct effect of her journalism has been deeply rewarding.

"Sometimes it can feel like you're writing into the void, so seeing that people do care has been amazing," she says. "I read Nick's work and felt motivated to do something about the issues he wrote about, so to see that people felt the same about my story filled my heart."

Michael Hickins '83 (left) and Michael Granville '83

JORG MEYER

Pride of the Yankees

MICHAEL HICKINS '83 AND MICHAEL GRANVILLE '83 CEMENTED THEIR LONG FRIENDSHIP WHILE ROOTING FOR THE HOME TEAM

BY CHARLES BUTLER '85, JRN'99

In the 1960s the New York Yankees' lineup featured the M&M Boys, Mickey Mantle and Roger Maris, who turned Yankee Stadium into their launching pad and drew fans to the Bronx with their must-see longballs.

These days, a different set of M&M Boys have made the stadium their second home, but instead of swatting home runs, Michael Hickins '83, SOA'86 and Michael Granville '83, GSAPP'92 swap stories — about their careers, their kids, their time on Morningside Heights — in Section 227, Row 7, Seats 15 and 16, of the park's upper deck. It would take a colossal Aaron Judge foul ball to reach them, but distance doesn't matter to the two Michaels. Closeness does. And baseball — Yankee baseball — is the magnet that keeps pulling them together, from spring to fall, cementing a friendship kindled by a chance meeting during Orientation 46 years ago.

"Michael is my closest friend; he's irreplaceable," Hickins says. "If we didn't have [Yankee games], it would be really hard to get together, and I would miss him a lot."

Since 1999, when Mariano Rivero was still mowing down batters and Derek Jeter was still slapping clutch hits the opposite way, the modern-day M&M Boys have shared a partial Yankee season-ticket plan. The package gets them 16 games (mostly Friday nights), access to postseason tickets and, best of all, a chance to keep their friendship sharp while witnessing baseball history.

They leaped and high-fived and belted "New York, New York" together after escaping Game 1 of the 2000 World Series against the Mets with a gripping 12-inning win. They "Holy cow!"-ed together when Scott Brosius tied Arizona with a two-out, two-run, ninth-inning homer, giving the Bombers life in Game 5 of the 2001 World Series. And they winced and ugh-ed together watching Pedro Martinez of the archrival Red Sox masterfully strike out 17 Yanks on a September night in 1999. Along the way, they've sung "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" and "YMCA" more times than two off-key 64-year-olds should be allowed.

"Michael's voice is as bad as mine," Granville confides, trying to hold back a smile. "The only reason I sing is because he does."

The Mikes from Queens were 18-year-olds when they met in John Jay Hall on the first night of Orientation in 1979. (Yes, they're from Queens, and *not* Met fans. More on that to come.) A day or so later, outside Chock full o'Nuts on Broadway, they bonded over poetry and prose. Their own. "I had a folder of my high school fiction, a lot of Beat generation mimicry. Garbage, really," recalls Granville, who today is a limited partner in a Manhattan architecture firm. "Mike was writing a lot of poetry at the time. We were standing on the corner basically handing each other our writing."

For much of their College years, classics, not curveballs, connected them. The two English and comparative literature majors shared several classes, including "Elliott, Joyce, Pound," which led to meet-ups at Symphony Space for readings of *Ulysses*. But after graduation, in those dispirited Yankee years of the mid-1980s, the pair headed to 161st Street and River Avenue for a different kind of drama. Hickins initiated the trips. Even though he grew up along the 7 line, a few stops from Shea Stadium, he'd become a Yankee fan by osmosis.

"My parents listened to WQXR, the classical music station," Hickins says. "And every hour there was a news report with a very serious voice talking about world leaders like Henry Kissinger, and every once in a while he would evoke the name of Mickey Mantle with the same reverence. It dawned on me that Mickey Mantle was a real person who played baseball for the New York Yankees." Once The Mick retired, Hickins latched onto the likes of Celerino Sanchez, Horace Clarke and, for sure, Ron Blomberg. "Oh, I loved him — I mean, a Jewish ballplayer!" Hickins gushes. "But he was always hurt."

In the bleachers, over sausages and bad beer, Hickins — who nearly made the Columbia baseball team as a walk-on pitcher — would lead a tutoring session, telling his buddy when the Yanks needed to hit and run or get the bullpen up. Then, like now, Granville says, going to the stadium with Hickins was a "deep dive" into the game, so much so he converted from Met to Yankee fan. As Granville puts it, "The game is so engaging when you have someone with that knowledge."

The friendship withstood a nearly 12-year separation. Hickins moved to France in 1985, living first in Paris and then later in the western port city of La Rochelle, where he owned a restaurant and, on the side, coached a French baseball team. A fine life, with one major drawback: When the Yankees finally returned to the World Series, in 1996, Hickins had a hard time keeping up with their games from across the Atlantic. The French broadcaster airing the series often killed the feed well before the seventh-inning stretch. "I was pulling my hair out with anger," Hickins recalls. His solution: He'd call Granville in New York, begging his friend to be his personal John Sterling. "I was kind of annoyed," Granville now admits, "so maybe it wasn't the most gracious play-by-play he ever heard."

The long-distance calls did enhance Granville's ardor for the game, and when his friend returned to the metropolitan area, he suggested they team up for season tickets. "We got the cheapest 16-game plan you could get," Granville says, "and still have the right to get postseason tickets." A Friday night ritual was born.

Most nights they get to the stadium 45 minutes before the first pitch, Granville via the D train from Manhattan, Hickins on Metro-North from his home in northern Westchester County, where he works remotely in communications for Oracle Corp. They get a poke bowl. ("This is a recent-year thing," says Granville. "You got to start eating a little more healthy.") In their seats the talk is mostly strategic, the ebullient Hickins dissecting outfield alignments or predicting which pitch should come. But through the years they've shared the ups and downs of, well, life.

Granville has lamented about a work project gone wrong; Hickins has confided about a romance or two that soured. But it was also in the upper deck where the friends, first united by a shared interest in storytelling, talked about Hickins' parents and their unlikely escape from the Holocaust. The conversations helped distill what became Hickins' most recent of five authored books, *The Silk Factory: Finding Threads of My Family's True Holocaust Story*. "[Michael has] written a lot of brilliant fiction, gobsmackingly intense work," Granville says, "but this was something else. The humanity in this book … it was really powerful. I've never been prouder of anybody than I was of Mike writing that book."

> "MICHAEL IS MY CLOSEST FRIEND; IF WE DIDN'T HAVE [YANKEE GAMES], IT WOULD BE REALLY HARD TO GET TOGETHER, AND I WOULD MISS HIM A LOT."

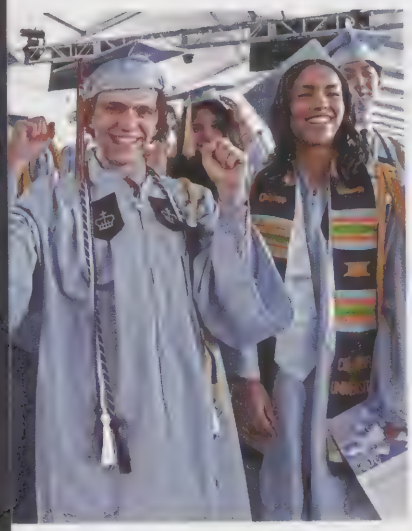
They usually wait for the last out, for Sinatra to start crooning. Steadfastness often pays off; witness a Friday night in 2002. With the centerfield clock inching toward 1 a.m. and only a smattering of drenched Yankee fans remaining in the park after nearly six hours, the Yankees' Jason Giambi crushed a grand slam, in the 14th inning, to beat the Minnesota Twins, 13–12. The only blemish? Hickins had no one to high-five. His buddy had gone home a few innings earlier. "To my shame," Granville admits, "I wasn't there for the walk-off."

It's a memory, like so many others, that fuels a friendship, keeping two pals coming back to the Bronx after all these years.

Charles Butler '85, JRN'99 *is a journalism professor at the University of Oregon. He is researching a book on Lou Little.*

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2025!

More than 1,300 College seniors became alumni at Class Day



ON MAY 20, under a blue sky several shades deeper than their caps and gowns, the Class of 2025 joined the ranks of College alumni.

The annual ceremony returned to its traditional location on the lawns between Butler and Low Libraries. Among the program's featured speakers were Dean Josef Sorett; the keynote speaker, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jodi Kantor '96; student speaker Thomas Edwards '25; and senior class president Rohan Mehta '25.

Edwards was among the first to take the stage, opening with a "Surprise!" to his parents, from whom he'd kept his selection as essayist a secret. He talked about the importance of storytelling and legacy, noting that the latter "isn't handed to you at the finish line. It isn't a trophy. It's something you construct, moment by moment, without realizing it. Our legacy is booming, impactful, resilient. No one can deny the impact that the Class of 2025 had on this university and the world outside those Gates."

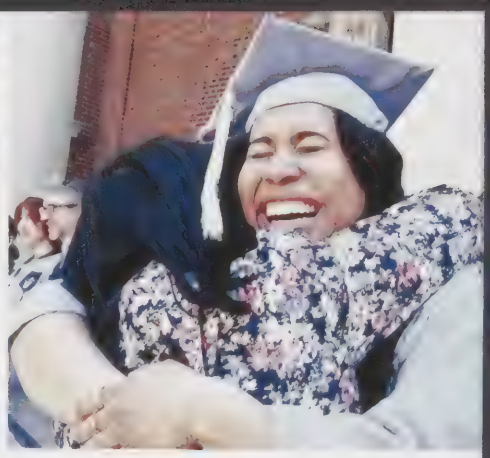
Mehta referenced the tumult of the past few years and spoke to the class' "inspiring" resilience, highlighting the excellent work of *Spectator* and WKCR journalists, the Columbia College Student Council members who distributed food to students when dining halls were closed and the student senators who advocated for their peers.

"Most critically, we all checked in on our friends more and opened our apartments and suites to build all forms of community," Mehta said. "It gives me so much hope that we are ready to take on the world. Our time here wasn't simple. … So thank God we learned here, and had our ideas challenged here. Thank God we grew here."

Dean of Academic Affairs Lisa Hollibaugh presented a number of awards, including to valedictorian Eilidh MacLeod '25 and salutatorian Suwei Ma '25. Afterward, Raymond Yu '89, SEAS'90, president of the Columbia College Alumni Association, awarded alumni prizes. Acting president Claire Shipman '86, SIPA'94 also gave remarks.

Kantor, best known for the investigative work that exposed sexual abuse allegations against film producer Harvey Weinstein, gave a clear-eyed speech informed by her own conversations with members of the graduating class. She sought to answer a question that she said she heard often: "In this environment, how are we supposed to find or start our life's work?"

Sharing her own story of being kicked off *Spectator,* and later dropping out of Harvard Law School, Kantor warned students against assuming that their College experience would



> "No one can deny the impact that the Class of 2025 had on this University and the world outside those Gates."
>
> — Student speaker Thomas Edwards '25

dictate their futures, and told them not to be afraid to change their minds. "If any of the trains you get on turn out to be heading in the wrong direction, get off the train," she said. "Don't be overly afraid of risk and, especially right now, be wary of predicting which fields are the most promising. These predictions can eliminate all sorts of magic and meaning."

She also encouraged students to focus on craft — that "combination of expertise and skill" that can lead to success and fulfillment — and need. "What is your own independent assessment of what society will need most during your working years?" she asked. "What kind of care, what kind of productions, what kind of information? Do not be the people who fail to understand the opportunities this moment presents. And they are massive opportunities, precisely because everything is in question."

Kantor continued: "Class of 2025, your lives are your move. The best people in life and history are the ones who take negative, even devastating, stimuli and formulate powerful, productive responses. If you find your craft and your need, you will experience growth — professional and personal — that feels at once like transcending your boundaries and returning to your truest self."

Sorett then spoke to the complexities of graduating at this moment and urged students to consider the question, "Who are we becoming?"

"Our society, at any level as you choose to define it, cannot function without some shared frame of reference," Sorett said. "What results when we lose our ability to recognize common principles, something shared across our differences?"

He acknowledged there are no easy answers: "It takes work. It takes an inquisitive mind. It takes individuals willing to listen to one another, a willingness to accept that our own assumptions may be incorrect. It takes patience and an openness to the possibility that strangers who embody every imaginable kind of difference — even purported 'adversaries' — can find and pursue a common purpose. This is the power that the idea of this academic community holds, a vision that is as socially inclusive as it is intellectually expansive."

Sorett concluded: "It is my firm belief that before me sit the leaders, thinkers and principled actors who will help forge a brighter future — even in the face of all that confronts us. … And so, Class of 2025, I leave you with my most sincere salutations, with confidence in your capacity to face forward with grace and my deepest respect."

Photographs by Eileen Barroso

The celebrations continued on May 21, when graduates from all University schools came together for Commencement, the ceremony in which degrees are officially conferred by the University president. The event also featured the recipients of the 10 Alumni Medals, three of which went to College alumni: Courtney Nicole Cesari '04; Eric H. Holder Jr. '73, LAW'76; and Mary A. Kuo '92.

Leadership and Excellence Awards Honor Outstanding Students

The annual Leadership and Excellence Awards recognize exceptional students from Columbia College and Columbia Engineering for the impact they have had on and their involvement in the campus community. At this year's ceremony, held on April 30 in Faculty House, more than 90 students received honors ranging from named awards for academic excellence and community service to senior marshal recognition.

For many graduating students, these awards reflect the dedication and work they've put in over the last four years to be passionate, strong leaders on campus. Here, six College seniors discuss their journeys and what these honors mean to them as they prepare for life after their undergraduate years.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY EMMA ASHER

Sophia Strugnell '25

PRINCIPLED ACTION

As captain of the women's tennis team, Strugnell has become a leader both on and off the court. Hailing from Greensboro, N.C., she arrived on campus excited to live in a big city and experience all that New York had to offer. Now, as she prepares for her next chapter, Strugnell says she's excited to step into another "big pond."

"I think the key to being in those big ponds is to make your own small ponds within them," she says.

Strugnell's "small ponds" have contained multiple advocacy groups for athletes, including Columbia's Voice in Sport chapter, the Make a Play Foundation and the Student Athlete Advisory Committee. In all of these roles, she's worked to ensure that student-athletes have a voice in administrative decisions, as well as the support they need to succeed as students and post-graduate professionals. She's also been dominant on the tennis court, earning second team all-Ivy honors in doubles play this season.

"Seeing my journey from my first year when I was sometimes barely making the lineup to now being a senior and having a big leadership role as captain has been really special," she says.

Strugnell says she is excited to continue using the leadership skills she developed as an athlete and student advocate as she enters post-graduate life at Deloitte.

Kumayl Alloo '25

SENIOR MARSHAL

The recurring theme throughout Alloo's College experience has been a dedication to teaching and learning. From serving as a peer tutor to teaching Qur'an recitation to students on campus, he's been motivated to give back during his four years.

"I enjoy teaching because it tests your knowledge of the material and challenges you to break it down into easily digestible concepts and tailor them based on the student's background," he says.

A neuroscience and Arabic linguistics and literature major, Alloo has been reciting the Qur'an since he was a child, winning international competitions along the way. When he got to the College, he found a welcoming community in the Muslim Students Association and has honed his teaching skills through tutoring others, both on and off campus, in Qur'an recitation.

"The MSA created a really warm, welcoming space. When I entered our mosque in Earl Hall for the first time, all the students shook my hand and asked my name," Alloo says. "And now I've been able to give back by teaching recitation."

As a peer tutor and TA for science classes, he's continued to contribute to the campus community by helping others understand difficult material. With aspirations of becoming a physician-scientist, Alloo is eager to use the skills he's developed through teaching and learning every day in practice.

Aliyah Davenport '25

SENIOR MARSHAL

As a first-year, Davenport knew she wanted to be a campus leader. Now, about to graduate, she has left her mark, bringing her passion for civil rights and social justice to every facet of her College experience.

"I'm so glad that I can say I feel confident with where I am right now," she says. "Seeing my accomplishments and the people I've touched — that really makes me happy."

While a student, Davenport interned at the NAACP's Thurgood Marshall Institute and at the law firm Kirkland & Ellis. She developed a passion for public interest law, learning how civil rights have been defended through the legal system and seeing the effects of these cases firsthand. Her advocacy extends beyond her professional interests, as she has incorporated causes she cares about into her leadership roles, including the Caribbean Students Association and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. Davenport has developed programs for civic and political engagement in both groups, bringing her passion and expertise into spaces where she has helped others grow into more informed and engaged citizens.

"I've always been very passionate about social justice," she says. "Bringing those issues directly to my communities has been very important to me."

Harrison Gerson '25

SENIOR MARSHAL

Gerson's love of learning has been a guiding light in his College journey. His desire to try new things and meet new people has led to trips to 20 countries, a thesis focused on global sustainability, a three-year stay at the Intercultural House and a newfound love for dance.

"You could put me in any class and I would love it," he says. "I took astrophysics, African dance and French linguistic history; I loved all of my classes at Columbia."

In Gerson's learning experiences, though, he says he's always conscious of the impact he has on the planet and on other people, and has sought ways to effect positive change in his communities. He co-founded the Student Union for Sustainable Development and wrote his thesis on the environmental impact of university international hubs, including Columbia's Global Centers, and how to advance their sustainable development goals. Gerson has hosted Shabbat dinners at the Intercultural House for students with a diverse range of perspectives and political views, creating spaces for conversation and connection.

"The Intercultural House is a real center for social justice, and I'm honored to be part of that history," he says. "I'm so proud of my community for welcoming these events."

"I told my mom during Convocation that I would be happy to have just my name on an organization's website or be in a leadership role," Kim says. "I'm so grateful to have been given these opportunities."

Geena Kim '25

HEALTH AND WELLNESS, SENIOR MARSHAL

During her time at the College, Kim felt drawn to opportunities that would make a difference in the lives of others on campus. The eldest of twins, she says she takes on the qualities of an older sister, especially when it comes to helping others.

"I was an international student when I arrived, so I was a bit lost at first because I didn't really know how to navigate the system," Kim says. "But I received a lot of guidance, so I was inspired to find similar mentorship roles."

As a TA and peer tutor in science classes, she's found joy in helping students one on one, but also knows how to create fun experiences that foster campus community. Inspired by her Korean heritage, Kim has helped plan and execute events with the Korean Students Association, including the annual cultural show. Her passion for helping others also extends beyond campus, where she volunteers with the nonprofits Dance to Unite and Radio Lollipop.

"I told my mom during Convocation that I would be happy to have just my name on an organization's website or be in a leadership role," Kim says. "I'm so happy to have been in more than one role like that and am grateful to have been given these opportunities."

Charlie Hoskins '25

INCLUSION AND ADVOCACY

Hoskins' four years at the College have been shaped by the mission of the Columbia Policy Institute — a student-run, non-partisan progressive think tank that tackles issues on campus and beyond through comprehensive policy solutions. Previously a director of CPI's Human Rights and Democratic Access centers, and now president of the institute, Hoskins helped rebuild the group after the Covid-19 pandemic and is committed to being a resource for the students continuing his work.

"I have really tried to create a space where people can talk to me, so I'm hoping the next board will come to me with its questions about how to run and navigate things," he says.

In addition to his leadership role, Hoskins has contributed to policy research, particularly on the history of trans activism at Columbia. He produced a report on his findings, creating a documented history of the efficacy of organizing efforts for LGBTQ+ advocacy. Hoskins says the most fascinating part of his research was discovering how much of the effort for LGBTQ+ inclusion on campus has been driven and led by students through the years.

"Gender-neutral bathrooms and housing are things that I've kind of taken for granted in my time here," he says. "But 10 to 20 years ago, trans students really had to push for change at Columbia. It was cool to see the results of the efforts made by people here before me."

LIBBY MARCH

Love During Wartime

Informed by history, Nishant Batsha '10's latest novel combines romance and revolution

While at Oxford studying to become a historian, **Nishant Batsha '10, GSAS'17** realized he wanted to be a novelist. "I had time there to think and to write more creatively, and suddenly I felt pulled in a completely different direction," Batsha says. "I was really interested in exploring what it meant."

He decided to stick with both pursuits, and while working toward his Ph.D., he began to write historically informed fiction. Amidst his research Batsha chanced upon stories about a small band of South Asian revolutionaries who lived in California in the early 20th century and were starting a movement to overthrow the British empire. Batsha was intrigued enough to look for a narrative hook and learned of the passionate real-life romance between an Indian nationalist and an American graduate student. An adaptation of their love story, set in 1917 at Stanford and in New York City, is the backdrop of his second novel, *A Bomb Placed Close to the Heart* (Ecco, $27.99).

The characters Indra Mukherjee and Cora Trent are based on Manabendra Nath ("M.N.") Roy, an activist and political theorist who founded Communist parties in Mexico and India, and his wife, feminist and idealist Evelyn Trent. Mukherjee and Trent meet in Palo Alto and sparks fly; their love story deepens as they attend protests alongside anticolonial dissidents and socialize with bohemian thinkers in the Bay Area. As the United States is drawn into WWI, the hastily married couple is forced to flee to NYC to avoid the attention of British and American authorities.

Batsha set *A Bomb Placed Close to the Heart* near his hometown in the San Francisco Bay Area as a way to explore the area where he grew up. "When you think about the Bay Area, most people think about innovation and technology, but this is a very different Palo Alto in the novel," he says.

Batsha went east for the first time in 2006 to attend the College, and says he fell into studying history by chance. He became suddenly and seriously ill during the spring of his first year, which "broke any momentum I had had," he says. After taking a semester off to recover, he wanted to try different courses in order to decide what he might major in. "Latin American History I," taught by associate professor Caterina Luigia Pizzigoni, set him on his path. He went to Oxford as the 2010 recipient of The Jarvis and Constance Doctorow Fellowship, and completed a master's there before returning to Columbia for his Ph.D. His thesis about labor migration formed the basis of his first novel, *Mother Ocean Father Nation*, which was a finalist for a Lamda Literary Award and was named one of the Best Books of 2022 by NPR.

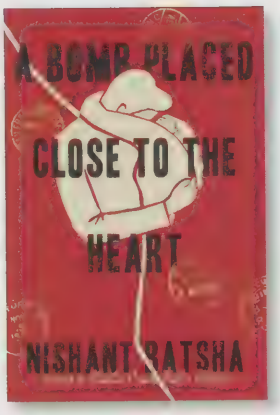
Batsha doesn't like having down time when it comes to his writing, and began work on *A Bomb Placed Close to the Heart* just weeks after wrapping *Mother Ocean* in late 2021. "I found the story of M.N. and Evelyn, and I knew what I wanted to do with it," he says. "The characters of Indra and Cora came out of my own surmising of what they would look like together and what emotions they would navigate."

In the chapter excerpted here, narrated by Cora, the pair travel from Palo Alto to Berkeley and get to know each other better. As Indra talks about his life in India under British rule and his desire to take direct action that might crush the empire, Cora begins to wonder if Stanford might be too pastoral for her.

Batsha himself enjoys "a charmed writerly life" in Buffalo, N.Y., with his wife, a professor of art conservation ("We call her job 'the puppy dog' because whenever it comes up, people fawn over it," he says with a laugh) and their two children. He spends half his time as a ghostwriter for CEOs, the other on his next book, about a disillusioned Civil War veteran who joins a Shaker community in rural Maine and forms a meaningful relationship with a young orphan.

"I really want to take my time with this one," Batsha says. "Writing a novel feels like this antiquated art that really doesn't jive with how the world works anymore — but sometimes you've got to luxuriate in that."

— Jill C. Shomer



It was a long journey between Palo Alto and Berkeley. They had to get to San Francisco and then take the autobus up to the Ferry Building, where they could take a Key ferry across the Bay, then the streetcar to Berkeley. If they were lucky, they could get there by midafternoon.

The conversation with Indra moved as easily as the steam and fire of all the forms of transport that took them to their destination. They told each other stories of their youth — she enjoyed recounting to him how she grew up in the hardscrabble mines. He couldn't believe that she had lived for so many young years in such desolate places, and he had such great pity for the loss of her mother. He seemed sadder about it than she ever felt, but she soon learned that his own mother had passed away a year or so ago, and he was speaking of his grief through her loss.

He spoke of his upbringing in India, particularly his brief wanderings as an ascetic. Indra's grandfather had been the village priest, which meant that there was some sort of manhood ceremony when he was ten years old where he had to become a peripatetic mendicant. Temple to temple, he wandered, gurus waiting to tell him the same tenets over and over: see the world that passes by for what it is, a story, an illusion.

Reading gave way to action, she learned. Indra gave up his religion when he was eighteen and the British announced their plan to partition Bengal in two, to take the power of that region and neatly divide it upon an invisible border. It was an outrage to divide a place upon a simple religious line, one Hindu, one Muslim — he joined the street marches to protest, and in him grew a desire for direct action, a fist that could rise above a simple collection of voices upon the street to grab at and crush the heart of empire.

"These men in Berkeley, they feel the same thing," he told her. "They've made a political party called the Ghadar."

"What does that mean?" Cora asked. She said the word internally: Gha-dar. It sounded all wrong, nothing like how he said it.

"It means the revolution. They're the Party of Revolution. They organized about five years ago. Their members move between here and the Punjab, mainly. They want the same thing I do: total liberation of India from foreign rule."

"Are there many Indians in the Ghadar in California?"

"There were more a few years ago. Now it seems to be mainly students and writers. They've made inroads with the Sikh Punjabis working the farms in the state."

"I didn't know there were Indians farming in the Central Valley," she said, curious about a history and people that seemed hidden from her. "Why are they here?"

Indra shrugged. "Why is anyone anywhere? One man has an idea and takes a boat. If he's able to find some sliver of a good life, he writes home. His cousin, his uncle, his nephew, and maybe even his best friend's brother's son's brother arrive soon enough."

Cora chuckled. "Is that why there are men studying at Berkeley as well?"

"For the most part. One man found he could come here and learn without having to bow down to the British at Oxford or Cambridge. The men reading for degrees at Stanford and Berkeley are the same. They don't want to beg their lords and masters for an education."

This seemed, to Cora, entirely different from the countless editorials and articles at the Union about the Asian menace creeping across the state, a tide of workers seeking to undercut the wages of good white men.

The two finally arrived in Berkeley near two in the afternoon. As they walked from the edge of the Cal campus to their destination, Cora wondered why she had chosen to attend Stanford over Cal, as the former seemed to be a pastoral destination, cloistered off from greater society. This was a place where city and school moved together, filled with a life that emanated from the Campanile chiming in the distance. As they walked down Telegraph Avenue, she overheard conversations in French, in German, and outside a teahouse, a man slamming down his hand on a table, exclaiming, "Cubism will not survive the war in Europe!" This wonder was not limited to her attention: she saw how Indra too let his eyes wander this way and that with the look of a traveler newly arrived in a strange land, a moving and unfocused stare that confessed there was too much novelty to behold in a single moment.

From *A Bomb Placed Close to the Heart* by Nishant Batsha. Copyright © 2025 by Nishant Batsha. Excerpted by permission of Ecco, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.

alumni news

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Two recent projects by artist Imo Imeh '02 tell big stories about Black identity.

CLASS ON THE GRASS

Students took a lesson outdoors in the shadow of one of campus' most famous sculptures.

JILL SHOMER

Engaging With Alumni Where They Are

By Raymond Yu '89, SEAS'90

I hope you are all well and will find ample time to enjoy the summer with family and friends.

One of my priorities since becoming president of the Columbia College Alumni Association (CCAA) in January has been to engage with alumni where they are and to listen to their concerns and opinions. I have had the pleasure of meeting many of you at College events, including the John Jay Associates Reception, Lions basketball games, the John Jay Awards Dinner, the West Coast Honors in San Francisco and Los Angeles and — most recently — Columbia Reunion. I am grateful for the many well wishes and expressions of support I have received, and I continue to work toward meeting more of you in cities around the country and during my travels abroad.

I am also immensely appreciative of the members of the CCAA Board of Directors for their unwavering commitment to furthering alumni engagement. The fond memories we as alumni recall and the new memories we make at Homecoming and reunion are made possible by the dedication of the board, committee members and Alumni Relations staff. Intellectual programming such as Mini-Core Courses, Big Topics | Short Takes, Café Columbia and AlumniTALKs, offered both in person and virtually, provide alumni with opportunities to delve deeper into current topics of interest as well as to learn from distinguished professors in subjects as varied as artificial intelligence and Art Humanities.

Welcome Receptions and New Student Summer Send-offs, Alumni-Hosted Dinners, the Odyssey Mentoring Program and Adulting 101 classes provide opportunities for alumni to welcome students before they arrive on campus and then guide them during their time at the College and into the next phase of their lives, after graduation.

Whether through joining alumni community groups, participating in giving societies, or supporting major fundraising events like the Alexander Hamilton Award Dinner and John Jay Awards Dinner, there are countless ways for College alumni to stay engaged and make a difference in the lives of other alumni and students.

One of my takeaways from these six months of alumni conversations is an awareness of the anxiety that many are feeling about the uncertainties faced by Columbia, its peer institutions and the country as a whole. Concerns about Columbia's funding and its agreement with the federal government are palpable, as is concern about certain government actions under review by our judicial system. However, Acting President Claire Shipman '86, SIPA'94 has made it clear that we must "stay true to our core mission as an educational and research institution, and true to our community" and that we will also protect "the University's academic and operational integrity and independence." In times of uncertainty, it is our shared values and the strength of our alumni community that can help to light the way forward. I am deeply grateful for the bonds that connect us. Together, we will contribute to shaping Columbia's bright future.

JENNIFER CHEN '25

Yu with his daughter Evelyn Yu '25 and wife, Amy Yu TC'12, on Class Day.

That said, many parents I have spoken with have indicated that their children have overall been enjoying their undergraduate experience. I echo that, as, on a personal note, my youngest daughter graduated from the College in May (I'm also the parent of a CC'21 and a CC'23). Watching her grow and thrive within the same community that has given, and continues to give, me so much has been a source of immense gratitude and pride. I am especially excited to see her begin her own journey as an engaged alumna, continuing the tradition of connection and service that defines our Columbia experience. Moments like these remind me how powerful and lasting the Columbia bond truly is across generations.

I've also had the privilege of speaking directly with many College students, not just in recent months but also through the years. And I am glad to share with you what you probably already know: We have incredibly bright, talented, focused and ambitious students who are also caring, vulnerable and in need of guidance. They need us to continue supporting them and we need to continue supporting each other as we build up our alumni community.

While we have significant challenges to resolve, I remain confident in the Columbia College community. Please feel free to be in touch with me (ccalumni@columbia.edu) with any ideas or suggestions regarding how the CCAA can better support you and the College.

bookshelf

Looking at the Hamptons *by Arthur Frank '56.* This collection of 136 color photographs of the east end of Long Island features a foreword by Francis Levy '69 (Archway Publishing, $45.95).

The Infielders: A Novel *by Lewis Segal '56.* In 1947 New York City, four boys with little in common become fast friends while playing baseball (Butternut Books, $19.99).

Ethics at the Center: Jewish Theory and Practice for Living a Moral Life *by Elliot N. Dorff '65.* Rabbi Dorff explains that our response to moral issues depends ultimately on our conceptions of the nature of human beings and God (The Jewish Publication Society, $45).

The Abbey Church of Cluny: The Context and Creation of the Surviving Great Transept *by C. Edson Armi '67.* Armi, an architectural historian, examines the largest basilica in Christendom, commissioned at the end of the 11th century (L'Erma di Bretschneider).

The World Has Changed: Coming of Age Stories *by Charles A. Bookman '70.* Bookman revisits his experiences sailing and conducting science at sea, and climbing mountains and adventuring in Africa and South America (ScanHouse America, $11.99).

Stranger Still *by George Ochoa '81.* In this psychological thriller, a troubled Columbia undergrad becomes obsessed with a graduate student (independently published, $14.99).

The Ex-Human: Science Fiction and the Fate of Our Species *by Michael Bérubé '82.* Bérubé considers classic and contemporary works of sci-fi that depict civilizational collapse and contemplate the fate of mankind (Columbia University Press, $26).

An Irish Passion for Justice: The Life of Rebel Attorney Paul O'Dwyer *by Robert Polner '82 and Michael Tubridy '82.* O'Dwyer, a New York activist, politician and lawyer, fought for the rights of the downtrodden and marginalized throughout the 20th century (Three Hills, $36.95).

Lucky: A True Story *by David A. Green '86 with Judy D'Mello.* Green, an ultrarunner, bonded with a stray dog, Lucky, in Brazil in 2018; three years later the pair spent four months running 3,400 miles across America (Endless Road Press, $19.99).

Infodemic *by Carol Guess '90.* Set in Seattle, this collection of stories focuses on contemporary queer life during the Covid-19 pandemic and the aftermath of Donald Trump's first presidency (Black Lawrence Press, $16.95).

The Path of Most Resistance: Poems on Women in Science *by Jessy Randall '92.* Randall's poetry about historical women in STEM fields (including Mae Jemison, Ada Lovelace and Rachel Carson) is illustrated by NASA artist Kristin DiVona (Goldsmiths Press, $19.95).

The Lost Trident of Poseidon *by Grant Dawson '95.* In Dawson's first work of fiction, a brilliant expert in cryptanalysis, along with a team of human and dolphin scientists, uncovers a mystery within the ocean of a dark and inhospitable planet (Desert Wind Press, $15.99).

Why Nothing Works: Who Killed Progress — and How to Bring It Back *by Marc J. Dunkelman '01.* An exploration of the forces that stifle Americans from getting things done, and how we can restore confidence in democratically elected government (PublicAffairs, $32.50).

Creaky Acres: A Graphic Novel *by Calista Brill '02.* Nora, the new kid in middle school, makes friends and learns to trust herself through the power of horseback riding (Kokila, $14.99).

Cellar Rat: My Life in the Restaurant Underbelly *by Hannah Selinger '02.* Selinger chronicles her rise and fall as a food server and sommelier, from her first job at a gritty hometown pub to serving celebrities in the Hamptons (Little, Brown and Co., $29).

Stuck: How the Privileged and the Propertied Broke the Engine of American Opportunity *by Yoni Appelbaum '03.* Appelbaum, a historian and journalist, tells a surprising story of the people and ideas that caused our current economic and social sclerosis (Random House, $32).

The Love We Found *by Jill Santopolo '03.* Ten years after the heartbreaking events of Santopolo's bestseller *The Light We Lost*, Lucy Carter Maxwell gets a second chance at life and love (G.P. Putnam's Sons, $30).

Soldier's Paradise: Militarism in Africa after Empire *by Samuel Fury Childs Daly '09.* Daly details how Africa's military dictators tried and failed to transform their societies into martial utopias (Duke University Press Books, $28.95).

— Jill C. Shomer

SUBMIT YOUR BOOK TO *CCT*

Alums! Have you written a book in the last year? Tell us about it!

college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_bookshelf

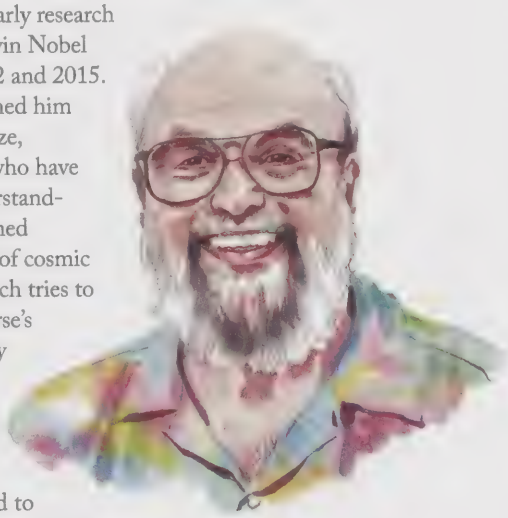
lions

By Emily Driehaus | Illustrations by Matthew Cook

John Learned '61

Not everyone can say they've spent their career hunting for ghosts. But **John Learned '61** might just be one of the few who can.

Learned, a physicist and a professor at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa, has worked to uncover the secrets of neutrinos, also called "ghost particles," throughout his decades-long career. These shy, imperceptibly small particles constantly bombard Earth from outer space but hardly ever bump into matter, making them hard to detect. Learned has worked on experiments with the goal of detecting neutrinos as they fly down to our planet, contributing to early research papers that went on to win Nobel Prizes in Physics in 2002 and 2015.



In 2023, his work earned him the prestigious Yodh Prize, awarded to researchers who have contributed to our understanding of cosmic rays. Learned helped pioneer the field of cosmic neutrino astronomy, which tries to make sense of the universe's fundamental structure by studying the neutrinos that travel to Earth from across outer space.

As a prize recipient, Learned was invited to give a lecture at UC Irvine on his research and was awarded $2,000.

"I've had various honors in my lifetime, but this was beyond anything I had experienced," he says. "It was very humbling." The recognition, though, has not altered his desire to keep contributing to the daily grind of data gathering. He travels to take shifts on experiments based in Japan, where massive detectors are used to record any trace of a neutrino so researchers can pinpoint where it might have originated. But because neutrino interactions are infrequent, Learned says, most of his shifts are spent making sure the equipment is functioning properly. Still, the possibility of being there for the arrival of a burst of ghostly neutrinos keeps the work interesting.

"That's one of the more exciting things," Learned says. "When you're watching this in real time, thinking that you could be the one sitting there when the event of the century takes place."

Sarah Kellner '16

Sarah Kellner '16 participated in typical campus activities as a dance major at the College — performing arts groups, Hillel and being a resident adviser. But she also had a relatively uncommon extracurricular: working as a doula.

"I attended births, but also supported people through the full spectrum of reproductive health, including abortions and pregnancy loss," Kellner says. "Gaining an understanding of the obstacles people face in the medical world really sparked my interest in being on the other side of it."

Working to eliminate those obstacles from the medical system has continued to be a guiding principle for Kellner. While a student at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, she helped organize a town hall about healthcare policy with Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.), who represents the school's district. She also testified at a state hearing in favor of the New York Health Act, which would provide universal healthcare for all New Yorkers. Now a third-year resident with Montefiore Einstein Medical Center, Kellner is putting her advocacy background into practice as she provides care and stands up for the rights of her patients in the Bronx.

Her work goes beyond conventional clinical care and involves addressing social determinants of health for her patients. "I'm writing letters to landlords about safe carpeting and pest control and doing things that doctors don't necessarily do. But without them, you can't even begin to think about health," Kellner says.

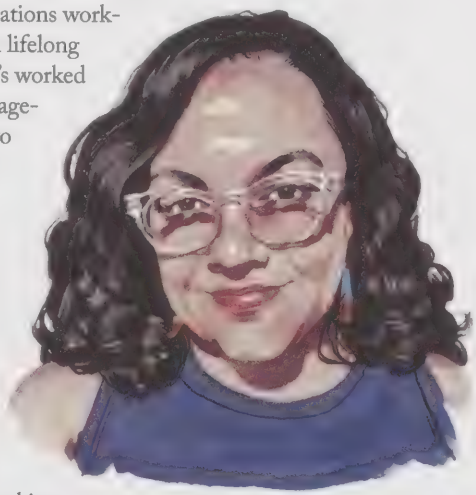
She is still passionate about reproductive healthcare, and provides services like contraception management and sexual health counseling. By having comprehensive training in reproductive medicine as a primary care physician, Kellner is eliminating a barrier to that care for her patients. She's also able to get to the heart of family medicine: caring for a whole family.

"I take care of a patient and her mother, and that patient is now pregnant. I'm doing her prenatal care and hope to attend her delivery and then take care of the baby," she says. "I'm thinking about what kind of support they need, and I'm going to have a part in that. It's really exciting and just beautiful, pure family medicine."

Evonne Gallardo '96

Much of **Evonne Gallardo '96**'s professional life is guided by her personal mantra: "I love art, but I love artists more."

Her work demonstrates this dedication every day. Gallardo is a senior program director at Community Partners, a national nonprofit based in Los Angeles that connects public and private funders with individuals and organizations working for social change. A lifelong advocate for artists, she's worked in arts and culture management for more than two decades, and is driven by her love for the artists and their creative processes.



"Artists and art are not the icing on the cake," Gallardo says. "To me, they are essential for any healthy society."

Gallardo develops programs to connect working artists with resources that support their work in their communities. Most recently, she collaborated with the California Arts Council to lead the California Creative Corps for Los Angeles and Orange Counties, which gave $100,000 each to 33 artists and culture bearers — those who carry on cultural traditions and practices like food, film and dance — who live or work in historically underserved and underinvested communities in Southern California. Their work centers on themes like public health, civic engagement, climate change and social justice; the grants allowed them to pursue these projects without needing to worry about living expenses for a year. The artists were also able to pay volunteers who'd been helping them with their work, leading to job creation and greater community engagement with their art and cultural practices.

The fellowship ended in 2024, but Gallardo continues to work on sustaining the program and is still in touch with the artists who received grants, especially in the aftermath of this year's wildfires in Los Angeles. As grantees worked in their communities to help those who were affected, Gallardo said, their response highlights the essential role of artists in times of crisis.

"In our sector, we often say artists are second responders in times of crisis," she says. "Artists work in tandem with first responders in a way that serves our spirits and mental health."

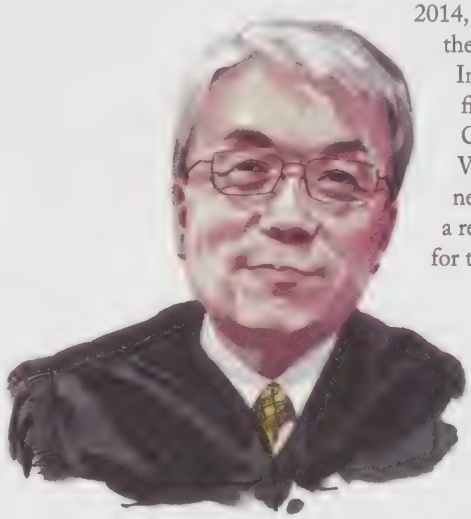
Samuel Chung '85

The **Hon. Samuel Chung '85** will never forget meeting Roger Lehecka '67, GSAS'74 and other student founders of the Double Discovery Center. Chung, then an undergraduate DDC counselor, was struck by their determination in launching DDC in 1965.

"Their sense of excitement and enthusiasm is something that I've carried throughout my life," says Chung, now a King County Superior Court judge in Washington State who hears cases in Seattle and the surrounding area.

Chung's childhood also influenced his path. He emigrated from Seoul to New Jersey at 12 and grew up hearing about the issues immigrants in his community faced every day. After becoming an attorney and moving to Seattle for work, Chung started a pro bono clinic with other Korean-American attorneys, helping elderly and low-income Korean immigrants; he also was the founding president in 1993 of the Korean American Bar Association of Washington.

"I understand the difficulties of being a non-native English speaker and apprehension regarding the legal system, so I thought I could help give the Korean community a voice," Chung says.



He worked in private practice until 2014, when he was appointed to the bench by then-governor Jay Inslee (D-Wash.). Before his final interview with Inslee, Chung visited the Korean War Memorial in Olympia, next to the state capitol. "It was a real honor to be interviewed for the position. My father was a Korean War veteran, so it was a reflective moment," he says. "When I got the position, it was truly a grateful moment personally and a celebration for the community."

Chung says that his formative experiences helped him develop the empathy he holds presiding over cases from felonies to family law. "At the end of the day, what the people of our county elected me to do is show that I care about the people who are before the court," he says.

classnotes

JILL SHOMER

Pretty in pink! Blossoms were bursting at Buell Hall on a beautiful day in May.

1954

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Thank you to the two members of the class who responded to our call for updates.

Dr. **George S. Goldstein** writes, "As another member of the 'Bicentennial Class,' I was struck by the 'three Larrys' in the Winter/Spring 2025 issue. I am now also 91-plus but recall vividly my contacts with each of them. Currently living in Boca Raton, Fla., and happily doing nothing with my treasured wife of 67 years, Shirley. Career spent as a practicing pediatrician for 12 years and then 30 years in senior executive positions in clinical and medical affairs in the worldwide pharmaceutical industry, concluding with co-founding of a now–NASDAQ-traded biopharmaceutical company.

"The three memories are 1) working on a *Columbian* article with **Larry Kobrin,** who still has my eternal thanks for bailing us out at deadline time with a terrific article on the Bicentennial; 2) the always highly interesting talks with **Larry Gartner** at pediatric meetings; and 3) a memorable trip through the Skyline Drive in Shenandoah National Park with **Larry Scharer** (red hair blowing in the wind) and a few others.

"Time has not dulled the luster of some things!"

Bob Orkand, who spent almost four years as a member of the Bicentennial Class but graduated with the Class of 1958 after being drafted into the Army in 1954, recently

celebrated his 91st birthday at home in Huntsville, Texas.

He writes, "Bob retired from the Army as an infantry lieutenant colonel in 1974. He served in Korea (7th Infantry Division), Vietnam (1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile)) and on the staff of the U.S. Commander Berlin. His final assignment was as Pentagon spokesman on the Project Volunteer Army and on the expanding role of women in the Army. He then joined Knight Ridder Newspapers at the *Miami Herald* and retired from KRN as president/publisher of the *Centre Daily Times* in State College, Pa.

"On the KRN corporate staff, Bob was assistant to senior VP Dick Capen '56.

"Bob lives with his wife, Belinda, in Huntsville; they celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in April."

CCT is sorry to report the passings of **Avrom H. Fleishman** and **Bruce A. King.** See "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct.

Please send your news to *CCT* via email at cct@columbia.edu, or use the online webform college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Classmates would enjoy hearing from you!

1955

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Thank you to the following alumni, who responded to our call for updates.

Herbert S. Gardner, in West Palm Beach, Fla., writes, "With us both now 90, my wife of 67 years, Jane Were-Bey Gardner BC'55, and I have discovered the best way to live and love being super seniors: Keep busy! I am conducting an area orchestra and volunteer as a teacher in a local public school, and she is becoming a champion bingoist. Living in a social community designed for 'independent living' is proving to be the way to go. I hope to hear from you guys."

Gordon Silverman SEAS'57 is "preparing to teach a grad course related to AI and engineering design at Manhattan University, where I am Professor Emeritus, Electrical & Computer Engineering."

Stanley Corngold shares, "In recent years, following my retirement from Princeton, I've published an intellectual biography of philosopher Walter Kaufmann, a couple of books on Thomas Mann's wartime residence in Princeton, and, more recently, a volume of essays on Kafka, *Expeditions to Kafka: Selected Essays.* I'll also publish the papers on Kafka that I delivered at conferences in 2024 in Europe to honor the centenary of Kafka's death. That meant strenuous but engaging trips to Cologne, Oxford, Heidelberg and Dublin — an exciting change after the local sequestration of the Covid-19 years. I'm lucky to have a spacious office at the Princeton University Press, in a wing 'where emeriti go to die,' but being there feels life giving.

"I am happy with the friendship of my stepdaughter Natascha Weisert, an officer at United Nations Industrial Development Organization in Vienna, and of course my wife, Regine Üllner-Corngold, an accomplished artist-photographer. She has recently completed a photographic project after three years of finessing it: a series of juxtapositions of modern portraits she's taken of women throughout the world and ancient representations of women in painting and sculpture with a view to exciting a spark of (mis)recognition between them.

"I would be delighted to hear from my distinguished Columbia cohort!"

James Berick checked in: "I celebrated my 92nd birthday in the early spring. So far, so good! My sixth and youngest grandchild started college, and Columbia was not his choice, so a three-generation-straight line has been ended. Morris CC 1916, LAW 1918 has not survived to witness the end."

CCT is sorry to note the passings of **Jeffrey H. Broido** SEAS'56, **Francis J. Miller, Daniel North, Beryl Nusbaum,** Dr. **Howard M. Sussman** and **Henry D. "Hank" Wolf** SEAS'56. See "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct.

Class Notes are submitted by alumni and edited by volunteer class correspondents and the staff of *CCT* prior to publication. Opinions expressed are those of individual alumni and do not reflect the opinions of *CCT*, its class correspondents, the College or the University. By submitting to Class Notes, you acknowledge that the text is also going to appear in print as well as on *CCT* online and in archives.

Submit a Class Note or Photo

CCT welcomes news, updates and photos from Columbia College alumni.

SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE

- If your class has a correspondent, email them at the address at the top of your column.
- If *CCT* handles your class, email **cct@columbia.edu** (please indicate your class year).
- All classes may submit using the online webform **college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.**

SUBMIT A PHOTO

- Photos must feature at least two College alumni for Class Notes, and one for Just Married!, as long as the alum is a member of the couple.
- All photos must be submitted using the online webform **college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.**
- Photos that do not meet the size parameters for print will run online.

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1956

Robert Siroty
rsiroty@gmail.com

A wonderful conversation with **Mike Spett** about a totally unrelated topic ended with quite a discussion about the recent happenings at alma mater. Mike is in Florida.

Hillel Tobias is still full-time director of hepatology at Lenox Hill Hospital in NYC and professor of medicine at Hofstra's Zucker School of Medicine. He retired as medical director of the Liver Transplant Program at NYU and helped develop the Hepatology Services at Northwell Health into one of the major liver transplant services in the New York area.

Hillel and his wife spend weekends in the Hamptons, and they hang out with several of his Phi Sigma Delta brothers. I tried to fill him in on the workings of the '56 *Spectator* Managing Board, and we had a little correspondence about how we would have acted if we were still writing editorials.

Murray Watnick (dimist.org) writes that as a past adviser to the World Health Organization, he is concerned about the fact that two-thirds of the world's population have no access to diagnostic X-rays.

As for me, I have served on the Advisory Council of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Rutgers, aimed at those of us older than 50. Became reacquainted with Gerry Pomper '55 (who was managing editor of *Spectator* before me).

1957

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Thank you to **Eugene Wagner,** who responded to our call for updates. He writes, "I guess we are doing well as I approach my 90th birthday in good health. I keep up with my oldest friend, and roomie during Frosh Week, **Ed Weinstein,**

who is still as sharp as ever, and I always look forward to our long lunches in NYC.

"We lost our dream home in the Pacific Palisades fires but we all got out safely. Unlike so many people that we know we did have excellent fire insurance, but as I told the many people who have checked in on us — it's not the money, it's all the stuff one accumulates over a lifetime. Memories are great, but you can't touch and feel them."

CCT is sorry to note the passings of Dr. **Felix A. Conte** and **Richard A. Lowery.** See "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct.

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1958

Peter Cohn
petercohn1939@gmail.com

With alma mater again under siege from a variety of sources as I submit this column in late March, I look again to the sporting scene for some relief — and distraction — from the mental toil of one Morningside crisis after another. So ... when I submitted my column in late October for the last issue (Winter/Spring 2025), I voiced the hope that the football team would be a contender for the Ivy title. Boy, was I pleasantly surprised how that turned out! First title since 1968! And here we are again with the women's basketball team winning another Ivy regular season title (their third in a row) and on their way to the NCAA "March Madness" tournament once again. Our men's tennis team is a regular fixture in the top 10 rankings, and the baseball team (like the tennis lads) will be trying for consecutive regular Ivy titles this spring.

The last issue contained comments about the passing of **Ira Carlin** from some classmates. We have one more remembrance to add to the list, from **Charles Golden.** Chuck writes: "Not only was Ira a classmate and good friend, but we also were both lawyers and both in the Navy following graduation. We stayed in contact after graduation, and he and his wife, Jane, were gracious hosts to my wife, Sheila (now deceased), and me when we visited San Diego and Southern California many years ago. He will be missed. I am quite sad over this."

As I remarked in that issue, many of Ira's classmates feel the same way, myself included.

1959

Norman Gelfand
nmgc59@hotmail.com

Norman Bernstein reports, "I am in Barbados on vacation. Enjoying the sun and the rum. And I really like what Trump is doing to straighten out Columbia."

From **Bernie Pucker,** "We recently welcomed our first great-grandson: Leo Jay. Another of our granddaughters will marry in May! The gallery is flourishing with creativity and joy. We recently hosted a Chabad Megillah reading as well as sponsored the Brother Thomas Lecture on Art and Spirituality at Boston College."

Jerome Charyn writes, "My reflections on both *Joker* films appeared in the Spring 2025 issue of *The American Scholar.* My story 'Russian Hill,' about *Vertigo,* will appear this fall in an anthology of stories, *Birds, Strangers and Psychos,* based on Hitchcock's films. My novel *Maria La Divina*, about the life and hard times of Maria Callas, will appear this September. I'm working on a novel about Dostoyevsky and his second wife. I play ping-pong twice a week with my coach. My wife, Lenore, and I had dinner with **Karl Malkoff** GSAS'65 and his wife, Barbara. Karl and I were both members of the College's Colloquium, along with **Jay Neugeboren.** My young adult novel, *Silver Wolves*, will appear in 2026. I meet whenever I can with my former students from the American University of Paris."

From **Luis "Lou" Stephens** we hear, "I am now visiting art galleries and attempting to promote my art and painting into the New York art scene. I've made a few inroads. A New York art promotion firm is backing me and I have self-published a booklet in English and Spanish (I am basically a Mexican artist), that shows a cross-section of my work in living color and explains my thoughts and process. If anyone cares to help, please do so. My website is luisstephens.com, and my email is luistephens@yahoo.com. (Note: No repetition of the 's' in Luis and the 's' in Stephens in my email.) Best to all classmates — yeah '59!"

Stan Keller opines, "I am still using my talents and expertise as a lawyer. While my area of practice has been business and securities law, events and circumstances have required me to broaden my interests.

"First, there is the administration's attack on law firms for representing clients the administration does not like. These actions undermine the rule of law and the right to legal representation. We learned in American history how John Adams, as strong a patriot as there was, represented British soldiers after the Boston Massacre. I wish Big Law, through collective action, showed similar courage.

"Then there are the administration's precipitous actions without due process against students who protested against the situation in Gaza, not to mention retribution against universities. No matter one's position on Israel, Gaza and the Palestinian cause, not to mention the protests and the errors in dealing with them by alma mater, symbolized on the Low Steps, those of us educated in the liberal tradition by the Core Curriculum have to stand up for the rights of fair expression and free speech, even while recognizing that there are limits when free speech crosses the line and becomes unlawful intimidation. [In my opinion,] it is not the government, however, that should enforce this precipitously through slogans without due process. We from Columbia, which has become the unintended poster child in this situation, are in the best position to rebut these attacks and stand up for the values we were taught before those values are permanently gone. My best to classmates."

Bob Ratner adds, "It behooves those of us still breathing to answer [Norman's] plea and offer some token of evidence that the stellar Class of '59 carries on, even if only in the shadow of its former glories. I finished my undergraduate years at Columbia under the tutelage of Professor William Cornell Casey, a remarkable teacher and unique individual, and then obtained an M.A. and a Ph.D. in sociology at Yale. I married a Canadian woman and accepted an academic position at the University of British Columbia, which seemed a comfortable distance from the horrors of Vietnam, a war I had been drafted into while at Yale and only escaped thanks to my graduate student status. I retired as a Professor Emeritus from UBC in 2003 and was then invited to join the academic board of a local international college, as a supervisor of the social sciences department, where I still work. I happily became a Canadian citizen in 1971 and have yet to renounce my U.S. citizenship, as there is much about America that I still like, though am tempted to do so by a twice-elected President now intent on usurping Canada as the 51st state.

"Columbia was always an epicenter of student protest against corrosive political agendas. and I am glad to see that tradition springing to life again in relation to the Palestine-Israeli conflict. The Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas attack was a sickening outcome of the historical impasse between two peoples who have not learned to live together, and the subsequent merciless Israeli bombing of Gaza brings no resolution — only more hatred and death. The time has come for all interested parties to enforce the two-state solution in ways that ensure mutual security while promoting comity and joint prosperity. Peace is always within reach, and I hope to see it come to the Holy Land before I die."

A note about a group of classmates: "The following is submitted on behalf of nine classmates who were also members of Phi Sigma Delta, and who have sustained a monthly Zoom group since the Covid-19 lockdown began. We are, with brief tags to identify current location and professional roles before retirement: **Michael Berlin** JRN'60 (Truro, Mass., journalist; professor of journalism), **Allan Franklin** (Boulder, Colo., professor of physics; history of science), **Ira Jolles** (NYC/Southampton, attorney; foundation executive), **Fred Knauer** SEAS'60 (Washington, D.C., engineer and consultant), **Joseph Krieger** GSAS'65 (Brooklyn, N.Y., professor of physics), **Robert Nelson** (Monterey, Calif., ophthalmologist), **Jordan Tobin** (Cleveland, physician, gerontological and aging research), **Richard Tyler** (Atlanta, orthopedist) and **Isser Woloch** (NYC, professor of history (at CU 1970–2010)).

"The origin story of our group begins with our 50th reunion.

COLUMBIA SCHOOL DESIGNATIONS

BC	Barnard College
BUS	Columbia Business School
CP	Pharmaceutical Sciences
CS	Columbia Climate School
DM	College of Dental Medicine
GS	Columbia General Studies
GSAPP	Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation
GSAS	Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
HN	Institute of Human Nutrition
JRN	Graduate School of Journalism
JTS	Jewish Theological Seminary
LAW	Columbia Law School
LS	Library Service
NRS	School of Nursing
PH	Mailman School of Public Health
SEAS	Columbia Engineering
SIPA	School of International and Public Affairs
SOA	School of the Arts
SPS	School of Professional Studies
SW	School of Social Work
TC	Teachers College
UTS	Union Theological Seminary
VPS	Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons

Although our fraternity had long since disbanded, both on campus and nationally, **Saul Brody** contacted the former members planning to attend and proposed that we hold a private reunion dinner before the College's reunion. That event proved so successful that we organized a comparable mini-reunion 10 years later.

"Sadly, Saul had died some years earlier by the time Covid struck. But Jordan proposed that we convene a Zoom group and undertook the technical responsibility for our monthly meetings. The nine of us who enlisted remain on board. There are no set agendas or presentations; we recommend books and might briefly discuss one, but we are not a remote book club. The discussion is free-floating, with lots of generational recollection and nostalgia about the '50s at Columbia and at large. Members sometimes presume expertise from one colleague or another and put him on the spot. With perspectives ranging from center-left to center-right we often discuss world affairs and politics."

Go to this column online at college.columbia.edu/cct to read more about this group. We will continue the notes sent in by **Tom Guinsburg** and **Joel Rein** for the Winter/Spring 2025 issue in the Fall 2025 issue. Individual contributions were edited to save space. I apologize if you feel that any important thoughts were, of necessity, omitted.

1960

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Thank you to the five alumni who responded to our call for updates.

David Farmer writes, "I was saddened to read that we have lost our sterling Class of '60 documentarian, **Bob Machleder.** He was a great guy and did a splendid job for many years. I was his predecessor long ago for a few years (so I know the drill) and was always in awe of his energy and accomplishment in chronicling our post-grad lives. Thank you, Bob, and I know you would insist on us continuing to share our news via *CCT.*

"I moved from our beautiful rural farmhouse in Cushing, Maine, to Portland, Maine, two years ago, following the death of my wife and my older daughter's stroke, and am enjoying the comforts of urban life again, Maine-style. I'm still 'from away' but have two grandchildren born here and am pleased to have found such a good late-life situation."

Lee Rosner writes, "I'm fortunate to live in a lovely apartment complex in Washington, D.C., with lots of friends. But I would love to meet CC'60 classmates in the area. Please drop a line to jlr4206@gmail.com if you'd like to hook up."

Peter Schweitzer and his wife, Annie McBride, "are sailing on *The World* from St. Lucia. This residence ship sails around the world every two years."

Harris Markhoff LAW'63, who lives in Pound Ridge, N.Y., writes, "As of June 25, I will be celebrating my 65th wedding anniversary with Cookie Markhoff. We have three children and seven grandchildren. All are doing well.

"I work every day at Danziger & Markhoff, a boutique law firm (employee benefit plans, estate planning and representation of family and professional corporations) in White Plains."

John Gubbings, in Bethesda, Md., notes, "I spent 20 years in the Navy, retiring as a lieutenant commander (long story). Got an M.P.A. (technology of management) from The American University, in computer systems and systems analysis while in the Navy. Retired from Lockheed Martin in the mid-'90s. Worked at FBI headquarters as a contractor for a while. My hobby lately is trying to beat the stock market."

CCT is sorry to report the passing of **Alvin I. Goldman.** See "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct.

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1961

Michael Hausig
mhausig@yahoo.com

Bob Salman and his wife, Reva, became great-grandparents in April, as their oldest granddaughter, Sydney, gave birth to a girl named Kennedy.

Bob won a convention vote for his seventh consecutive term as a member of the New Jersey State Democratic Committee. He expects to be reelected in the primary vote. Bob and Reva are actively campaigning for Rep. Mikie Sherill (D-N.J.) in the New Jersey gubernatorial Democratic primary.

Rich Mace's eldest granddaughter, Silken Eden Mace, married Basil Kingsley Beck III at Beaver Dams Farm, Ga. (the former Kenny Rogers estate) in April. The ceremony was presided over by Rich's son, Richard Riurik Mace, who is a longtime pastor at one of Georgia's leading Ecumenical Christian churches. The wedding was attended by about 150 family members and guests and took place on the grounds of the family estate.

Ed McCreedy has finally retired from the practice of law after 55 years of trying cases. Highlights of Ed's career include induction into the American College of Trial Lawyers in 1987 and being president of the New Jersey State Bar Association in 2004. Currently, he is spending more time on the golf course and has proved that holes in one are all luck by having three in the last year after never having one before.

Mike Clark SEAS'62 and his wife, Joanna, are living the good life! They spend winters at their home in Tucson, and summers at their home in Reno. They make several trips north to Idaho, Wyoming and Montana to climb mountains. Mike plays golf three times a week in both places, however his handicap is beginning the inevitable skid downward as a result of age.

Mike still fly-fishes internationally in Argentina, Brazil and Chile, as well as in Alaska, but had to give up Russia because of obvious reasons. He also still does some bird hunting around the United States. Mike's health is holding up but says at 85 it's becoming a chore to visit all the doctors involved. His original warranty has expired!

Joanna (a spectacular find from St. Luke's Hospital School of Nursing) continues to be the best decision Mike ever made! She can now leave him in the dust as they hike up the nearby mountains! They enjoy spending the money they worked to accumulate in their earlier life. "Hooray for retirement and all the pleasures it continues to bring," they say.

Burt Cross was director of records and the registrar at Rhode Island College in Providence for 30 years until his retirement. He is the proud father of six children and 14 grandchildren. Nothing is more important to him.

Several times during his first two years at Columbia, Burt was invited back to Bergen County, N.J., on recruiting trips with Dean

of Admissions Henry Coleman '46, and Professor of History Dwight Miner CC 1926, GSAS'40, where Professor Miner gave interesting slide show presentations about Columbia. Burt says he enjoyed being part of those outings.

Burt was a pole vaulter on the track team and was selected team captain in 1961. He was also selected as a permanent CC'61 class officer.

Bob Pollack was featured in a Feb. 20 article in the British journal *Nature:* "Money and murder: the dark side of Asilomar meeting on recombinant DNA" (online at bit.ly/4ivzpWW), for actions taken 50 years ago, when he was just starting out as a scientist and was involved in debates about the possible hazards of recombinant DNA.

In March, **Alex Liebowitz** and his family visited with my wife, JB, and me in Frisco, Colo., during their ski trip to Copper Mountain. We skied together for several days. It was a great snow year, and I completed my 12th season as a volunteer in the Copper Mountain Ambassador program, conducting mountain familiarization tours, training new ambassadors, helping misguided/lost skiers, finding lost parents and so on.

On a sad note, **Ed Auzenbergs** SEAS'63, BUS'64 passed away peacefully on Nov. 1, 2024. Ed lived a life dedicated to his family and faith. He is survived by his beloved wife, Ruta, and their children, Gunar and Daina. Ed was a proud grandfather to Megan, Caroline and Justin. He was a man of faith and wisdom, cherishing every moment spent with his loved ones. He was kind and caring and had a great gift for connecting with people. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the United Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cleveland. Additional information is included in "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct.

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1962

John Freidin
jfreidin@gmavt.net

Several classmates responded to **Dennis Wilder**'s suggestion that our aging might be an interesting topic.

Richard Toder wrote: "Joan and I have been happily married for more than 60 years, and my sense is that a good marriage goes a long way to continued happiness and contentment, occasioned in significant part by a sharing of experiences (both good and otherwise). Yes, one often forgets names and places, but at the end of the day that's hardly critical. Rather, being able to laugh about one's foibles — whether forgetfulness or otherwise — is a key to enjoyment. An occasional decent golf score also helps but remains a rarity!"

Writing from Framingham, Mass., Rabbi **Don Splansky** thought that "questions of aging raise the importance of religion. They deserve serious attention as we enter 'the homestretch of life.' When we attended Columbia, religion was largely critiqued or disregarded because most of the faculty's thinking was dominated then by Freudian thought. As we learned, Freud thought religion was an illusion. (After his wedding, Freud forbade his wife from lighting Sabbath candles.) Often at Columbia fellow students challenged my interest in religion and belief in God, as if such an outlook implied a simplistic lack of appreciation for science, or worse, an abdication of intellect. Not so! As Rabbi Jonathan Sacks wrote in *The Great Partnership: God, Science and the Search for Meaning,* 'Science takes things apart to see how they work. Religion puts things together to see what they mean.' We need both. Now is the best (and only) time to gain a deeper understanding of them, rather than pitting good science against bad religion."

Dan Stone commented: "As a youngster going on 83, I'm finding aging increasingly annoying. Life has taught me about physiology and pharmacology that I'd rather have learned from books, although it hasn't forced me to restrict my activities much. I might even be content if my wife of 58 years did not have serious health problems and if the United States had not declared economic war on Canada, my country since 1969. Not to mention the world's other problems. On the bright side, the Spring Thaw is hesitantly beginning up here. Temperatures climbed above freezing yesterday, and 'warm' weather will return soon."

Frank Stoppenbach claimed: "Can still do much of what I used to, though not necessarily with the same energy. Two things: As an older Japanese co-worker said, one can't eat as much as when young. Moderation in eating! The second was discovering an inability to stand on my right leg alone — pain in the hip. Started carrying my phone in a bag instead of on my hip, and the pain went away."

From Texas, **Peter Berman** said: "Just the idea of being an octogenarian is a difficult notion for me to contemplate. Maybe because I never thought I'd live this long, the idea of being 'elderly' does not resonate with me. I'm not overly concerned with my body parts wearing out. However, I do intend to be first in line for brain transplants. Now what was it that I had for dinner last night?"

Alan Bernstein wisely recalled: "When young, you construct your future; when much older, you assess what you constructed. I believe that the creation and living of a life is more creative and more important than the assessment of it. In general, life shrinks and constricts when old. You can share wisdom and lessons learned with contemporaries and younger generations, but you participate less in their lives. Having recently returned to New York City after living away from it for 45 years, it has been enjoyable and gratifying getting to know my youngest family members. For what it is worth, my words of wisdom to everyone I meet are 'Stay young.' Their response is invariably, 'It can't be done.'"

Larry Loewinger noted: "I recently turned 84 and know my time is short. Did I start with a plan? Probably not, but things have happened that give me a sense of achievement, a shape to my life. I have learned to deal with the depredations of aging. I'm still standing, although not very straight. Frail? Getting there, but not yet. Loss surrounds me personally and socially. Friends and family disappear; some move away; others pass away. I live with memory loss. Not mine, which is reasonably intact. But my wife has dementia, and that condition has radically altered our lives. It is a profound personal loss. At the same time, I live in a country that is losing its sense of self. Decency, honesty and caring for each other are disappearing. The nation is becoming corrupted day by day. But when all is said and done, I haven't abandoned hope. Maybe there's a touch of wisdom in that."

Our beloved class cartoonist, **Michael Stone** BUS'63, passed away on Jan. 7, 2025. He was 84 and had been living since retirement in Boynton Beach, Fla. His love for learning extended beyond academics. Mike was an avid reader and had a deep appreciation of classical music. He also had a wonderful talent for cartooning. As a student, he was the cartoonist for *Spectator.* Fifty years later, Mike designed a coffee mug for our 50th reunion. He is survived by his wife, Shelley Kaye-Stone; sons, David and Andrew '91; daughter, Nancy; stepdaughter, Cheryl Kaye; four grandchildren; and his first wife, the mother of his children, Judith Stone.

Just one month earlier, on Dec. 7, 2024, **Robert Sobel** died at home in Hendersonville, Tenn. He grew up in the Bronx, graduated from Bronx Science and at the College majored in chemistry. Bob rowed varsity crew and played clarinet. He earned a master's from Florida State and a Ph.D. in biochemistry from The George Washington University. He taught at the Medical College of Georgia, became the technical director of National Health Laboratories, was the regional scientific director of LabCorp in Louisville, Ky., and completed his career at Quest Diagnostics. After retiring Bob remained active in the American Association for Clinical Chemistry and kept up with research in his field. He developed a love for rural places and activities. He liked to hunt, fish, cut wood and garden. In 2006, he and his wife, LaDean, retired to Hohenwald, Tenn., where they lived surrounded by 95 wooded acres and a running stream. Friends and family of both Bob and LaDean delighted in their generous hospitality. Wherever they lived, they opened their doors and spread their table for food and fellowship. A lifelong Jew, Bob nonetheless provided countless meals to young Latter-Day Saints missionaries. He loved conversation and especially liked making a game out of good-natured argument. Bob is survived by LaDean; his son, Jona-

than; daughter, Rebekah; four grandchildren; and brother Matthew '59.

[Editor's note: See "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct.]

For your 84-year-old class correspondent, the most striking dimension of aging is the wide range of ways it affects us, from the untimely loss of dear classmates such as **Lenny Pullman** and **Jon Narcus** to the good fortune of those few who can still exercise vigorously and think deeply. Most of all, I wish each of you good health and good luck.

1963

Paul Neshamkin
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This has been a rough year so far for the world, our country, Columbia and some classmates. I am tempted to comment, but with a note limited to 1,200 words, I will refrain.

Gary Rachelefsky writes, "My wife, Gail, and I have lived in Pacific Palisades since 1972 and in our present home since 1980. On Jan. 6, we evacuated our house because of the threat of a wildfire. Within 24 hours, all of Pacific Palisades was engulfed in flames leading to the destruction of almost 7,000 structures, most of those being private homes. The fire spread rapidly because of 100 mph winds, limited water supply, and limited firefighting equipment and firefighters. The fire started in the hills and spread rapidly to the flat part of Pacific Palisades, an area that has rarely been threatened by fire. For unknown reasons, the fire stopped within two blocks of our house, sparing approximately 15 blocks and about 90 homes.

"Our house was significantly damaged by wildfire smoke and ash. We have been living in a two-bedroom apartment near UCLA and probably will return to our home in the early summer. We have had to reupholster our furniture, replace our rugs and mattresses, replace the insulation in the house and the attic, clean and/or replace the air conditioning and heating ducts, repair the roof where some of tiles burned, and do a massive cleaning inside and outside, especially our clothes, shoes, dishes, utensils and so on. Luckily, our cars were not left behind.

"It's hard to describe the devastation that has occurred to the little village of Pacific Palisades, one of the main reasons Gail and I stayed in California. The town will be rebuilt but it's going to take a good four or five years to return to what it was. Gail and I are so thankful that we still have a home, and all the damage is reversible."

Dan Perl reports, "I work full time as a civilian employee of the Department of Defense and am a professor at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Md. (the DoD's military medical school). There, I direct a research unit that studies the effects of a military career on brain health, with most of our work concentrating on the effects of exposure to high explosives on the brain. This has entailed organizing and then running a military brain bank that collects donated brain specimens from deceased servicemembers for use in research. This has been very successful (we now have more than 500 military brain specimens in the bank), and we are leading the way in using our unique tissue collection for studying this important problem.

"My work identified for the first time that exposure to blast, such as produced by an improvised explosive device or a suicide bomb, can damage the brain in a specific way. We introduced a disorder to the medical landscape, a groundbreaking discovery that has attracted considerable attention. I am now working with pioneers in developing brain imaging techniques in an attempt to visualize what I have detected under the microscope in order to diagnose this disorder in living subjects. Our work was recently highlighted in a segment of CBS' *60 Minutes* titled 'Larkin's War' (go online to bit.ly/3YbqnqN). This is an example of federal government work at its finest and since, at 82, I am still capable of providing leadership to my team, you can understand why I have chosen not to retire."

Barry Landau writes, "It's hard to believe how peaceful it is where I live in Chevy Chase, Md., just a short drive north of downtown Washington, D.C., the epicenter of so much turmoil and dysfunction. I finished up with my ongoing patients in my practice of psychiatry and psychoanalysis a few years ago. I continue to teach at Children's National Hospital here and the Washington Baltimore Institute for Psychoanalysis. My wife, Sara, and I are fortunate to be well. We have two great children, one in Bethesda, Md., and one in New York City. We also have five wonderful grandchildren ranging in age from 2.5 to 26. We are lucky indeed! I am also lucky to have had my education at Columbia. I look back on college days with great fondness. And I continue to enjoy the CC'63 Listserv."

Richard Goldwater writes, "I write to say goodbye to our world. Our generation is passing away as we watch the undoing of every value we absorbed and identified with as undergrads. We won't as a group live long enough to see a return of JFK's optimistic, open hearted and courageous vision of America. Good-bye to Elsinore; the rest is silence; may our silence be our rest."

Steven Cahn GSAS'66 writes, "I recently published several books. *Religion Within Reason, Second Edition* argues that theism is neither necessary nor sufficient for adherence to a religious outlook. *Professors as Teachers* presents proposals to encourage professors to give greater attention to their roles as teachers and not only as researchers. *From Student to Scholar: A Candid Guide to Becoming a Professor, Second Edition* offers advice on how to build a successful academic career. As I write, I am reminded of the impact on my thinking of the wonderful teachers I had at the College, including Montaigne scholar Donald M. Frame GSAS'41; translator of Spanish and Portuguese Gregory Rabassa GSAS'54; charismatic American historian James P. Shenton '49, GSAS'54; intellectual historian Bernard W. Wishy '48, GSAS'58; distinguished musicologist William J. Mitchell CC 1930, GSAS 1938; conductor of the Goldman Band and expert on contemporary music Richard Franko Goldman CC 1930; and eminent philosopher of science Ernest Nagel GSAS 1931, who encouraged me to pursue the study of philosophy. Even 60 years later, I have a vivid memory of the delightful time I spent in their presence."

Phyllis and **Hillel Cohen** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary last year. They're retired, living quietly in West Hempstead, Long Island, managing doctor visits, being grateful for their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and thanking God for each new morning.

I received the sad news that Holbrook Williams '64 died on Feb. 2, 2025, in Brooklin, Maine. **Peter Broido,** his classmate at Horace Mann, reminded me that Holbrook grew up and commuted to Columbia from his home on West 115th Street. At various times, Holbrook was a taxicab driver, teacher, carpenter, field survey researcher and organic gardener. He is remembered in Maine for his long-running WERU Jazz show, *Groove Shop,* which he hosted for more than 30 years. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct.]

Steve Clineburg informed me that **Hasso Molineus** BUS'65, our fellow oarsman, died in January 2025. Hasso is remembered fondly by all of us who rowed with him and for coaching the undefeated freshman lightweight crew in 1964 while he was in the Business School. [Editor's note: See the CC'67 column for a photo of the dedication of a new racing shell in Molineus' name.]

Rest in Peace, dear classmates.

Please go to this column online at college.columbia.edu/cct to read notes from **Paul Kimmel** and **Stephen Honig.**

If you'd like to stay in touch, especially through these difficult times, please join our Google group, where you can join daily discussions with about 100 classmates. Just send me an email and I'll sign you up. We also continue to meet virtually on Zoom every first and third Thursday at 12:30 p.m. EDT. Let me know if you would like to join us, and I'll send you an invite. In the meantime, please let us know what you are up to, how you're doing and what's next. Stay safe, stay well!

1964

Norman A. Olch
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As I sit down to write this Class Note the vernal equinox was only a few days ago, and the arrival of spring brings with it the hope for good days for us and for the world.

Speaking of the world, I have heard from classmates far and near.

I begin with **George Marcus,** who writes: "After graduating I opted for grad school as the best 'stay out of Vietnam' option. That led me to getting a Ph.D. and

then a career as a political scientist at Williams College. I am now emeritus but still active (working on my next book). The 'accident' of that war was a theme in a forthcoming brief memoir wherein I review the accidents that have proven beneficial and consequential. Going to Columbia was an accident largely because I received a four-year free ride, as was walking into my section of the great books course and finding it was being taught by Moses Hadas (that proved to have an enduring impact on my thinking, usefully giving me an alternative to social science dogmas). I now live with Lois, my wife, in Paris. Meeting her was another accident, indeed an accident of the greatest and ever consequential impact. While we began establishing a life in France decades ago, it seems quite unexpectedly wise given current circumstances in the States."

Jonathan Weiss, who retired last year after teaching French at Colby College for 51 years, writes: "My wife and I took a Columbia Alumni Association cruise on the Baltic last August. We were accompanied by the Nathan J. Miller Professor of Jewish History Michael Stanislawski of the history department, and his wife, Marjorie Kaplan BC'73, BUS'81, LAW'88. We visited, among other cities, Riga (where my wife, Dace, was born), Helsinki, Gdansk and Copenhagen. An excellent trip from every point of view; it surpassed our expectations. Upon our return to the States, we sold our house in Sidney, Maine, and moved to a cottage in a retirement community, OceanView at Falmouth, a stone's throw from Portland. I seem to be the only Columbia alum here; I'm outnumbered by Dartmouth, Penn and Harvard."

Rev. **Rick Alexander** writes from Florida: "I'm still happily pursuing my career as a counselor with the Church of Scientology, but on a limited schedule. I don't think I'll ever retire or want to. And I keep in contact with a few of my Columbia peers. I will never forget the moment I was leaving the *New York Times* building in Times Square when the news of Kennedy's assassination was announced. Many interesting memories and much interesting information learned 1960–64 in Morningside Heights."

From the Hudson Valley, **Saul Mishaan** writes: "Though my formal name is Saul, I am known in the Hudson Valley as Chuck. I have been teaching at lifelong learning institutes for more than 10 years on the intriguing subject of 'opera as politics' — the hidden, and not so hidden, political messages in opera. I am privileged to be teaching these popular classes on campus at Bard, Vassar, Marist and SUNY New Paltz, among other venues. Focused on the intersection of politics and the arts, I also lecture on authoritarianism and the arts, and 'The Arts and Culture of the 1920s ... 1930s ... and ... 1940s.' It is the solid foundation of the College's humanities and Contemporary Civilization curricula (arts and politics indeed!) that allowed me to eagerly and easily reenter the academic world and continue my exploration of the intellectual, political and artistic history of Western Europe."

Chuck's article about teaching at Bard can be found online at bit.ly/44Vij1n.

Doug Ingram writes from Manhattan: "**Jules Kerman, David Schiller** GSAS'92, Jeffrey Rubin '67, Stan Coen '58, VPS'73 and I are members of a monthly psychoanalysis/literature book group started by Lionel Trilling CC 1925, GSAS 1938; Steven Marcus '48, GSAS'61; and Arnold Cooper (a psychoanalyst). The group at one time or another included Robert Belknap SIPA'57, GSAS'59 and Mason Cooley, among other Columbia humanities faculty."

Bob Dylan rose to fame in New York during our years at the College, a time covered by the recent film about him, *A Complete Unknown.* I asked classmates for their reaction to the movie and **Avi Decter** wrote: "Funny you should ask about Dylan! In 1961, I read his first review in *The New York Times* and went to see him. Small audience, good music. I ran into him again in winter 1962–63 at the Troubadour in London, when he flew over to do a TV gig."

I also sent classmates a photograph of the closed Gates, and security measures, at Broadway and 116th Street and said I did not know how long the University plans to keep these security measures in place. **Richard Waldinger** responded: "In my experience, when security measures are imposed, they never are removed." Richard's paper *Automating the Derivation of Unification Algorithms: A Case Study in Deductive Program Synthesis* has been accepted by the *Journal of Symbolic Computation.*

John Friedman JRN'65 produced the film *Plunderer: The Life and Times of a Nazi Art Thief,* a feature-length documentary screened nationwide on PBS, and which was premiered at the DOC NYC film festival and will be screened at other film festivals in the United States, Germany and France.

From **Garth Hallberg** JRN'69, BUS'70: "I continue my career as a late-blooming novelist with a political/social axe to grind, two strikes against me in the traditional lit biz. I recently independently published my fourth novel, a climate change story masquerading as sci-fi: *The Grand Plan.* It's an epic reimagining of the origin of civilized humankind, drawing on the Sumerian legends and poems that predate the Bible by thousands of years and provide the earliest account of a universal flood."

From **Ivan Weissman** JRN'65, GSAS'69, here in New York: "My wife, Jane Rosenman, and I followed Columbia's Ivy League champion women's basketball team all season. What a fun ride it was! We had season tickets and even got to know some of the players' parents. The atmosphere in the gym was electric. Amid all of Columbia's problems, it was a wonderful breath of fresh air.

"I sailed on a Rock Legends Cruise in February, from Miami to the Bahamas. My shipmates included Alice Cooper, who performed without snakes but with his wife of 50 years, who was formerly in the Joffrey Ballet, dancing onstage. The age of the classic rock performers was illustrated dramatically when former Eagle Don Felder (who wrote 'Hotel California') had to end his concert after six songs because of a health issue. He recovered in time to perform another concert on the cruise and joked that he always said, 'I'd rock till I dropped.'"

Your classmates want to hear from you. Send in the note you have been promising yourself you will write.

1965

Leonard Pack
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Michael Cook writes: "Fellow classmates and I owe deep thanks to our class correspondent, **Leonard Pack,** for his diligence, caring and persistence. Because of his universally acknowledged modesty, he would never print this note in our class column.

"Len has diligently prodded and begged us to tell him about our many accomplishments for many decades so that *CCT* could disseminate the news. He did this because he was sincerely interested and, more importantly, because he is a mensch. He was a fully formed mensch before he got to Columbia, as we recognized in our first year. Only the College's Admissions Office can take credit for this man's goodness.

"We are lucky to have Len as a classmate and friend. The College and Law School are lucky to have Len as an alumnus."

Following is Leonard's column:

A brief update from **Don Bachman** VPS'69: "My wife and I are dividing our year between Sanibel Island, Fla., and Orleans, Cape Cod, Mass. We are a bit stiff in the joints but still active — reading, sketching, sailing and husbanding a loveable Golden Retriever. While we both have our brains reasonably intact, we decided it was time to retire from clinical medicine."

A smiling **Michael Cook** was featured in the Waterbury, Conn., *Republican-American* in January in a piece announcing the opening of the $7 million Cognition and Learning Building and Diagnostic Center at the Forman School's Litchfield campus. Mike is president of the school's Board of Trustees. According to the article, Forman plans to use

SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE

- If your class has a correspondent, email them at the address at the top of your column.
- If *CCT* handles your class, email **cct@columbia.edu** (please indicate your class year).
- All classes may submit using the online webform **college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.**

the building as a hub for research and collaboration with universities, researchers and organizations partnering with the school in studies on dyslexia, dysgraphia, ADHD and other conditions that result in students learning differently. A master planning effort by the school in 2020–21 identified a need for a new home for its cognition and learning department. In 2023, the Board of Trustees began meeting to discuss how construction of the building would be funded.

Two trustees offered $1 million donations, and a $3 million donation from a former trustee put the board well on its way to raising the necessary funding. In his remarks, Mike thanked head of school Amy Clemons for her work in helping move the project toward completion and praised her for building a positive school culture in her first year.

Richard Kagan is keeping busy: "Two years ago, in my last contribution to Class Notes, I mentioned that I had recently finished a draft of my biography of the noted 19th-century medical publisher — think *Gray's Anatomy* and the historian of the Inquisition, Henry Charles Lea. I am happy to report that the biography, *The Inquisition's Inquisitor: Henry Charles Lea of Philadelphia,* is now out. I have also been working on the history of Hispanism — the study of Spanish and Ibero-American art, culture, language and literature — in the United States, and, in conjunction with New York City's Queen Sofia Spanish Institute, helping to develop various symposia connected to America&Spain250, a program designed to investigate various aspects of the 250-year relationship between the United States and Spain. So, notwithstanding my retirement from teaching at Johns Hopkins in 2013, I'm managing to keep busy.

"On the family front, Marianna Shreve Simpson, my spouse of just over 42 years, presented the Yarshater Lectures in Persian Art in January at the University of London. A specialist in the history of Islamic art, Shreve spoke on various aspects of Persian-illustrated manuscripts. In the meantime, our son Loren's wine import firm, Kagan Imports, keeps us well supplied with various wines from Europe, South America and the U.S., and our grandson, Alexander (5), who lives nearby, provides us with no end of enjoyment and fun."

Joel Berger wrote with sad news: "I regret to inform classmates, with great sadness, that **Stan Sesser** GSAS'67 passed away on Jan. 27, 2025, at his apartment in Morningside Gardens. He had been suffering from ALS for many years and was in home hospice care.

"My wife, Barbara Pollack, and I were present at the time of Stan's passing, having come to say goodbye even though he was so weak that he might not have recognized us or comprehended anything we were saying. After we'd been there for about a half-hour, he suddenly stopped breathing and there was no longer any pulse.

"Stan didn't want any services or viewing, just immediate cremation with the ashes going to his husband, Yai, for burial of the ashes in Thailand. I'm his executor and had been making the arrangements. I also arranged his wedding with Yai in 2015, performed by one of my former colleagues at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund who had become a U.S. magistrate judge for the Southern District of New York.

"Stan was managing editor of *Spectator* in our senior year. After graduation he had an outstanding career in journalism, holding various positions with *The New Yorker, The Wall Street Journal, San Francisco Chronicle* and *Consumer Reports.* At *The New Yorker* he undertook dangerous assignments interviewing terrorists in Myanmar and Cambodia. As a restaurant critic of the *Chronicle,* he helped put Alice Waters and her Chez Panisse on the map at a time long before 'celebrity chefs' were in vogue. Stan's last position before retirement was Asia cultural editor of the *Journal.*

"He leaves behind Yai, and a daughter, Sasha Sesser-Ginzberg, from his relationship with his former partner, Abby Ginzberg.

"Stan was a dear friend for more than 60 years. He will be missed." [Editor's note: See "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu.]

Larry Wallach GSAS'73's review of an all-Bach organ recital appeared in *The Berkshire Edge* on Feb. 17. Larry's speculations on music and society, including such un-Bach references as Kendrick Lamar, Thelonious Monk and Procol Harum's "A Whiter Shade of Pale," make it well worth reading; you can find it online at bit.ly/3EiwFhF.

Bob Yunich reports, "Life remains extremely good! My wife, Joanne, and I enjoyed a one-week sojourn to Dublin and London this past September. I had a work assignment in Dublin nearly 30 years ago, and Joanne had visited Dublin much earlier. We saw how much the city had changed and visited some places we had seen before. The highlights were the General Post Office's exhibition on the Easter Uprising of 1916, which ultimately divided Ireland into North and South. We also visited Wicklow and the Powerscourt Estate, with its 47 acres of beautifully landscaped gardens and a magnificent mansion house.

"Who remembers that Benjamin Franklin lived in London for 16 years? We had a private tour of the Benjamin Franklin House at 36 Craven St. and learned about his escapades. We also visited the Bank of England Museum. At the Tate Modern, we viewed the exhibition 'Expressionists,' about a group of artists that became known as The Blue Riders and how they transformed modern art.

"I continue my volunteer activities with nonprofits. I'm in my sixth year as a trustee of the New York Youth Symphony. To top off the orchestra's Grammy win in February 2022, the Youth Symphony started an all-string 41-member orchestra, Crescendo. Now in its second year, Crescendo is free for students 10–22 who reside in New York City. In addition, last summer, 57 members of the orchestra participated in a nine-day concert tour in Greece.

"I joined the Harvard Business School (HBS) Club of New York's Community Partners program two years ago. Community Partners provides pro bono consulting and advisory services to nonprofits in New York City seeking assistance with business and management issues. The recommendations in a recently completed project report — I was the team leader — around enabling justice-involved adults to access higher education and training programs while incarcerated and after reentry garnered high praise from the president of LaGuardia Community College, the program sponsor. Working on these projects has also enabled me to reconnect with HBS classmates.

"My newest gig is freelance writing on investing for a new column, 'Need to Know,' in *Kiplinger's* monthly Retirement Report. My first article, 'Investing in Individual Bonds,' was published in the December 2024 issue.

"Lastly, Joanne and I are considering a short trip to Santa Fe this summer and a weeklong visit to Vienna in the fall."

Owen Zurhellen also provided an update: "I was hoping to attend the Class of '65 reunion festivities this past spring. My wife of 59 years, Kathy, and I are selling our house in Yonkers, where we've raised three children and hosted two grandchildren, to move into more manageable quarters. I'm gratified to be as healthy as I am; never imagined I'd make the 60th reunion but seems I will. I keep my bar membership active but only for counseling friends and family. My pastimes include woodworking and judo, mostly in a teaching capacity."

1966

Columbia College Today
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CCT thanks **Martin Lee** for his two years of service as class correspondent. Going forward, please send your updates to *CCT* via the email above, or through the online Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

Here are some notes from your classmates:

Bruce Trinkley GSAS'68 writes, "After serving for three years as Bailey 'Oats' Harvey's assistant conductor of the Columbia Glee Club and then one year as director (1969–70), I decamped to Penn State, where I taught composition, conducting, orchestration and opera literature and conducted The Penn State Glee Club 1970–2005. This past October it was great to be back at the podium for The Penn State Glee Club's 135th Anniversary, leading the combined 120 singers of the returning alumni and the current Glee Club. Repertory included my arrangement of 'Sing a Song with Me,' Barbara Cook's theme song in her final concerts; and two of my own compositions: 'Silent Spring' with text by my regular collaborator Jason Charnesky based on Rachel Carson; and 'Harvest Due,' the central anthem from the Bicenten-

nial Wagon Train Pilgrimage of 1976. The WTP played some 2,000 performances across the country during the Bicentennial Year, culminating in a summer of performances at Valley Forge.

"My Columbia undergraduate years gave me valuable experience writing and conducting two Varsity Shows ('The Bawd's Opera' in 1966, with book and lyrics by **Michael Feingold**, and 'Feathertop' in 1967, with book and lyrics by **John Litvack**), and studying with two master composers, Otto Luening and Jack Beeson. I continued creating musical theater and choral works after graduation. More than 20 operas and musicals later, my composing career culminated with the honor of becoming a Lifetime Honoree of the National Opera Association. My operas have won and been finalists in the NOA's Chamber Opera Competition and have been performed at colleges and universities across the country.

"Back when Penn State joined the Big Ten, I arranged a medley of the Fight Songs from all 10 schools. This has been updated several times through the years, most recently to include the four West Coast teams that joined last year. Now that Columbia has won the Ivy League title, perhaps the Lions will be invited to join the Big 18 and I can add some Columbia songs to the medley!

"I owe my career in music and academe to the fine education I received at Columbia."

Dan Sullivan BUS'67 writes, "Following the College and the Business School, I attended the University of Toronto. I spent 40 years in investment banking and banking in Toronto, retiring in 2006 as vice-chair of Scotiabank. Following that, I became a diplomat and was appointed consul general for Canada and resident in New York. I had a wonderful five years in NYC and had an opportunity to reconnect with a number of Class of '66 friends, including **Herb Hochman**. Following NYC, I returned to Toronto, doing for-profit and not-for-profit board work.

"The older I get the more I live on memories, and have many fond memories of Columbia and memorable times with **John Doody** and other classmates."

John Burrows writes, "This yet never-ending journey has taken me to an idyllic and aptly named town: Eden, Utah. It's a high mountain valley surrounded by three major ski areas. The adjacent towns are Liberty and Paradise. The Mormons (or Latter-Day Saints, which is more politically correct) came right out and said it.

"I practice guitar every day and do a concert a week. I am on YouTube at John BurrowsUtah. There are some cool music videos there.

"Looking back 11 years, I realize it took [guts] to leave the East Coast at 69. My three kids had migrated west; they are all in medicine. I've been blessed with six wonderful grandchildren from my children.

"I had to quit my beloved skiing two years ago due to a sudden onset of severe neuropathy. Can't feel my feet and have no balance, so no skiing. But before I quit skiing, when I was 74, I tallied 1, 450,000 vertical feet in one ski season, 126 days. Still, my theory is, 'If you don't use it, God takes it away.'

"I continue to stay involved with Powder Mountain, 3,000 vertical feet, and five miles up the road.

"As I write this, I have just returned from an incredible two weeks with my former roommate, **John Doody**, where we terrorized Fort Lauderdale and Key West, Fla. John has been a dear friend for more than 60 years. (Dang, I couldn't even count that high until I got to high school!)

"Carry on, my good people; it's time for my nap."

CCT is sorry to report the passings of **Harry M. Kresky, Robert E. Meyerson** and **John R. "Rand" Sealey.** See "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct.

1967

Albert Zonana
azonana@me.com

Eric Dannemann wrote: "In spring 2024, a group of rowers, largely from the Classes of 1967 and 1963, raised more than $70,000 to buy a new 8-oared racing shell for the lightweight crew. As it was the 60th anniversary of our class' freshman lightweight crew's undefeated season in 1964, this seemed a perfect opportunity to honor our coach, Hasso Molineus '63, BUS'65, who we knew had been in the hospital in his home country of Germany and had died in January 2025. Hasso coached only one year and retired undefeated after earning an M.B.A. and going on to have a stellar career with the World Bank. The current coach, Nich Lee Parker, had let us know that the lightweight crew needed a new boat and oars and agreed that we could name the boat in Hasso's memory. The new Pocock shell was christened at a race at Columbia's home course in Overpeck County Park, N.J. We were thrilled when Hasso's son, Sebastian, and grandsons, Constantin and Nicolas, joined many members of the original Spring 1964 crew to share in the dedication. On hand were **David Blanchard, Gerry Botha, Eric Dannemann, Bob Malsberger SEAS'67** and Richie Miller '63." See the nearby photo.

NICH LEE PARKER

On April 13, 2024, in Overpeck County Park in Teaneck, N.J., a new racing shell was launched in memory of former coach Hasso Molineus '63, BUS'65. On hand to mark the occasion were (left to right) Stephen Clineburg '63, former varsity coach Art Delmhorst '60, Constantin Molineus, Nicolas Molineus, David Blanchard '67, Gerry Botha '67, Sebastian Molineus, Eric Dannemann '67, Richie Miller '63 and Bob Malsberger SEAS'67.

Andrew Kolstad wrote: "I earned a Ph.D. in sociology from Stanford in 1976, then took a civil service job at the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics. I retired in 2014 after 38 years as a mathematical statistician working on The Nation's Report Card. I live with my wife, Jennifer Presley, in Silver Spring, Md., just outside the District of Columbia. I use walking as physical exercise, chess puzzles and math problems as mental exercise, and movies and theater as entertainment. I'm writing an exposition of the basic statistical model that underlies all educational assessment surveys, such as the National Assessment of Educational Progress."

Gordon Klein wrote: "I note with a smile that some of you have gone back to work. I never truly stopped working. I am in my 39th year at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. The only difference is that since 2010, I have a research position in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery, after having trained as a pediatrician. I spent 1989–2019 at Shriners Hospital in Galveston studying the effects of burns on the musculoskeletal system and for the last three to four years have applied what I have learned to try to understand how osteoporosis can lead to coronary heart disease and vice versa. Recently, I have put together a team to study this area, and our work has caught the attention of the WHO. I have enjoyed lecturing around the world and being a journal editor. **Dave Hillis** VPS'72 helped me along in my work by reviewing and commenting on a manuscript I sent him, and encouraging me to keep going. Dave recently retired as chair of the Department of Medicine at UT San Antonio, practically a neighbor. I would be remiss if I didn't mention that **Ira Krakow** got in touch and connected me to a whole group of classmates who meet virtually every other Thursday. I have now done this twice, catching up

with **Mel Brender, Arnie Bodner, Tony Greco, Bill Heinbach, Jeff Herrmann** and Bob Lichterman '69. I hope to do this as often as I can manage. Another classmate who came through Houston a few years ago was **Ray Burghardt.** I streamed a talk he gave at the Taiwan and East Asia Studies Program at the University of St. Thomas. That about does it. May life continue to be interesting for all of us."

Be well, all of you, and do write.

1968

Jeffrey Kurnit
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I heard from many classmates this time so I've had to abridge some of what I was sent, and I'm even saving some for next time.

This came from **Robert Chapla:** "My wife, Lenice Cicchini (retired nurse and poet), and I moved from the San Francisco Bay Area to Vermont in 2008. We restored an old farmhouse and barn (currently my art studio/gallery space) and are caring for and preserving 40 mostly wooded acres, as well as establishing organic gardens ... a minuscule effort to alleviate climate change. Does anyone need any carbon credits?"

I got the following from **Ernest Gilman** GSAS'76: "At the end of this past Spring semester I completed 43 years teaching in the English department at NYU as a full professor. Retirement looms, but I continue to enjoy the challenges of my job, especially the urge to keep learning and working with the latest crop of NYU students, most of whom now are about the age of my two grandchildren. At the moment, I think of myself as the Bernie Sanders of the department faculty. My main fields of interest, both in publication and teaching, have been in various areas: Renaissance studies, literature and art, and the literary records of epidemic disease, not excluding Shakespeare. I wish everyone good health and happiness, and I look forward to our next big reunion in 2028. (By the way, I have not had the pleasure of meeting Barron Trump.)"

Jim Hodos sent a summary of his life since Columbia: "After spending some time in Southeast Asia, I returned to realign my academic priorities toward geology. Then I spent about 10 years working in the mining industry for some Fortune 500 companies, mostly in Central and South America and the Western United States. Along the way, I met and married my wonderful and patient wife, Ellen SEAS'72. In 1984, we started a geology/mining engineering consulting firm, and subsequent projects took us throughout the Western U.S., including to Alaska as well as to Canada, Mexico, South America, the Far East and so on. Our first attempt at retirement in 2012 didn't last and we finally(?) retired at the end of 2024.

"We have a son, Mark, who lives in Manhattan and works on Wall Street. He and his wife, Frances, have a 4-year-old daughter, who, as every grandparent knows, is a wonder and a delight. Ellen and I have lived in about a dozen or so places total in the U.S.: in New York, California, Nevada and Arizona before moving to Connecticut in 2024 to be near our son and his family. This, we fervently hope, is our last move."

Jonathan Kotch got in touch: "Since October 2023 I have been the chair of the Board of Family Connects International, a recently incorporated nonprofit rolling out an evidence-based approach to nurse home visiting across the country. We have served more than 105,000 families of mothers and newborns in 53 programs across 20 states. Our nurses are connecting families to services that can address their needs and improving the maternal and infant health and well-being of entire communities."

Russell Needham wrote: "I visited **Michael Newmark** VPS'72 last fall in Houston, where he continues his career as a neurologist at the Kelsey-Seybold Clinic. Though we are Texas natives, I had not been to Houston since a high school field trip. We both enjoyed Houston's art museums and Grand Opera. I was a groomsman at Mike's wedding in 1976 to Carolyn Wilson, now deceased. She was an art historian, professor and author affiliated with Houston's Museum of Fine Arts. In NYC, I've been working with Emily Utset, the College's assistant director for class giving, to donate books from my collection of gay literature. These books are now in the Stephen Donaldson Lounge for LGBT students in Schapiro Hall. Columbia also has an LGBT residence, Q_ House, in a brownstone on West 114th Street, as well as a Columbia Pride Scholarship."

Nigel Paneth wrote: "I am semi-retired but still involved in research, funded part time by the grants I'm on (until Trump decides to cancel them!). During Covid-19 I joined a group of medical scientists in studying the value of convalescent plasma (used properly, it worked) and [as of this writing] we have a volume on the topic coming out next month. On the personal side, my wife, Ellen GSAS'79, and I have four grandchildren, two girls in New York City and two boys nearby in Michigan."

I got the following from **Paul Spirn,** with whom I sang in the Glee Club: "My wife, Anne, and I finished the renovations on our home to enjoy first-floor living for the indefinite future. We live on the beautiful shoreline of Massachusetts Bay in Nahant, Mass., a tiny town on a tiny peninsula 10 miles north of Boston, so the changes were worth the effort. Anne is the productive one in this marriage, writing her sixth book during a sabbatical from MIT's Department of Urban Studies and Planning (where her favorite colleague and soulmate is **Larry Susskind).** Since Covid-19 Day 1, I have been working from home as a staff radiologist at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, a teaching hospital in the Harvard Medical School firmament in Boston. My sub-specialty is chest radiology (mostly lung and heart disease), and, with a high-speed online connection, I have been able to participate fully in all interpretive, clinical and educational activities, without wasting hours in daily commuting. I have cut back to half-time status and am undecided at what level I will continue after the end of this academic year. I stopped singing in the Marblehead Festival Choir six years ago when it began scheduling its rehearsals after my bedtime, so I will look for another singing group."

Larry Susskind is in his 54th year teaching full time at MIT. He also still helps to lead the inter-university Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law School. His not-for-profit Consensus Building Institute continues after 40 years to provide mediation in environmental disputes around the world. Larry lives in a three-generation household in the Jamaica Plain section of Boston. His twin grandchildren (6) are learning to read, rock climb and cook, but there is no TV. He says that he gave up tennis and is forcing himself to learn to play pickleball with his son.

Larry adds, "My wife of 42 years, Leslie Tuttle, recently returned from a dogsledding adventure in Northern Minnesota with Adventures in Good Company. Very cold.

"Glad to be in touch with any classmates to discuss the dismal way Columbia (again!) handled student protest (over the Israel-Gaza war this time) as compared to MIT. Hundreds of my former students have lost their jobs at the EPA, HUD and other federal agencies. I don't know what advice to give them. Never in my life did I imagine America would be in the hands of a despot voted into power. Those of us who believe in democracy need to fight back as hard as we can."

I am regularly in touch with **Mas Taketomo** through email and text. Mas lives in Minnesota. On Feb. 17, he texted me a screenshot of the weather app on his phone showing a temperature of -18 degrees. You've got to be brave to live there.

I had rotator cuff surgery on my left shoulder two days after Christmas 2024 to repair a very bad tear in a tendon. I wore a sling almost all the time for six weeks and then spent another six weeks using the sling only when I left home. In late March, the doctor finally sent me for physical therapy. I am driving, and going to the gym for cardio, and I hope I will start to feel more improvement soon. I will let you know how I do in a future column.

Sans Souci!

1969

Columbia College Today
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Thank you to the following class members, who shared updates. Please send yours to *CCT* via the email above, or through the online Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

Oren Root "married Carter Crawford on Oct. 14, 2023. Oren and Carter, who were widowed in 2009 and 2008 after long first marriages, met through Match in 2019. Oren jokes that Carter and

he are 'the oldest newlyweds anyone knows.' Oren was privileged to have his wedding celebrated by four generations of family (his 101-year-old mother, three siblings, two daughters and three grandchildren). For the one or two readers who might be interested in a photo of Carter and Oren at their wedding reception, it can be found at college.columbia.edu/cct/issue/winterspring-2024/article/just-married (look for the couple with grey hair).

"Unrelatedly, on April 22, 2024, Oren had his first byline in *Spectator* in 56 years in an op-ed piece, comparing and contrasting President Minouche Shafik's responses to the 2024 student protests with the responses of President Grayson Kirk and VP and provost David Truman to the 1968 protests. It's online at bit.ly/4k4lUOT."

Francis Levy writes, "During the promotion of my last book, *The Kafka Studies Department,* with illustrations by Hallie Cohen, I quoted my friend Arthur Frank '56. Arthur has, BTW, recently published a wonderful book of photographs, *Looking at the Hamptons,* for which I wrote an introduction. Arthur wrote a paper for Professor Mark Van Doren GSAS 1920, *The Mysticism of The Castle.* He got an A- but I firmly believe he deserved an A+ or at least an A. Here is the opening paragraph, which I think speaks eloquently to Kafka's spirituality, 'Thomas Mann said that he would not care to dub Kafka a mystic. In the sense that Mann refers to — an obsession with death, or a search for an ultimate answer in death — Kafka was not a mystic. I was, however, able to extract from the almost overpowering allegory of The Castle a sense of mysticism different from that alluded to by Mann. It wasn't the mysticism of death, but rather that of finding a unifying principle of life.' Arthur also played football for Columbia.

"Back to me. My next book is *The Wormhole Society,* which is coming out in both standard and graphic novel form (with drawings by Joseph A. Silver '95)."

Irving Ruderman reports, "On a bright, gorgeous, sunny and cool day, **John Lombardo** VPS'73 and **Richard Rapaport** joined me in carrying our Class of 1969 banner in the Alumni Parade of Classes at Class Day on May 20, back again this year on campus. As we and our banner came into view on the screens the seated graduates let out a loud cheer. I guess they've either heard about us or studied us. We keep getting closer to the front, though there are still a few classes ahead of us.

"The women's basketball team won the Ivy League title for the third consecutive year, though as I write this the playoffs are yet to come. Reminds me a bit of the men's team's great year in 1968. It's great to see **John Lombardo** and **Jonathan Schiller** LAW'73 at the games. Jonathan sits courtside, with his name on the court.

"Thank you to Sarah Witkin '09 for her loving and touching tribute to her father, **Eric Witkin,** who was a regular on our Reunion Committee every five years, in the Winter/Spring 2025 issue. A graduate school roommate who also succumbed to pancreatic cancer insisted before he passed away that I get screened, as by the time you get symptoms it's too late. I took his advice, and fortunately the results were negative. It was good advice that I will pass on.

"I served as High Holiday cantor in Old Orchard Beach, Maine, and was a guest cantor at various Upper West Side synagogues."

William B. Bonvillian LAW'74, who lives in Wilton, Conn., writes, "I continue to teach at MIT, and have been working on its new manufacturing policy initiative. My new book is *Pioneering Progress: American Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy.*"

Henry S. Jackson notes, "Now that my mobility is severely limited, I appreciate the Core Curriculum even more. Without that foundation, my life would be a truly boring mess. Best regards."

CCT is sorry to report the passings of **Simos C. Dimas, Jeffrey Bruce Klein, Stephan P. Salisbury, Bennett C. Sandick** and **Alan B. Senauke.** See "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct.

Class Notes are submitted by alumni and edited by volunteer class correspondents and the staff of *CCT* prior to publication. Opinions expressed are those of individual alumni and do not reflect the opinions of *CCT,* its class correspondents, the College or the University. By submitting to Class Notes, you acknowledge that the text is eligible to appear in print as well as on *CCT* online and in archives.

1970

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Despite sending an email soliciting news from the class, I only heard from a few of you who keep me informed about your activities and accomplishments.

Jonathan Beard LS'75 has been emailing me on a regular basis and reports: "I worked for the Columbia Libraries for 11 years after graduating and could have stayed even into retirement age. I would be allowed on campus now, were I still an employee. We were almost classmates with William Barr '71. I heard Dr. Mehmet Oz speak — very well, when he was still a famous doctor — in Miller Theatre."

Professor **David Lehman** GSAS'78 contacts me on a regular basis; his accomplishments are many. He is editor, *The Oxford Book of American Poetry;* series editor, *The Best American Poetry;* and editor-in-chief, The Best American Poetry blog. He also teaches at The New School. David recently sent a short story he wrote, which was absolutely fascinating, particularly for those who had family that fled the Holocaust and were routed through Cuba. Read it online: bit.ly/44m3aWT.

1971

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Dr. **Howard Selinger** reports that life moves on, 50-plus years after our graduation. He remembers good times as the sports director for WKCR. He loved broadcasting sports, especially when Columbia played at Madison Square Garden. Howard considered a career in that field but ultimately pursued a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Connecticut. While studying for his doctorate, he wrote a book, *Community Psychology in the Schools: A Behaviorally Oriented Multilevel Approach,* and won a research award. Following a year's internship, Howard moved to Denver. He worked in the Denver Health mental health system and then opened a practice emphasizing cognitive behavior therapy treatments. While working in the Denver mental health system, he met Marilyn, who was getting a doctorate in neuroscience. They have been married for 51 years. Howard and Marilyn stayed in Denver and raised their family there. Their son, Gil '03, is a security attorney in the Denver area. Their daughter, Maia '05, earned a doctorate in psychology and joined Howard's practice. Howard is still practicing psychology because he enjoys working with patients and helping care for them. He has three grandsons who are in grade school but hope to carry on the family's Columbia tradition.

Howard remains interested in sports. He is a season ticket holder to the Denver Nuggets. He is a former member of the Columbia golf team and continues to play. He has traveled the world to play some of the greatest golf courses. Howard also takes his family on trips, including an annual visit to the Big Island of Hawaii.

Howard has stayed close to Dr. **Neal Rosen** and **Errol Segall.** Seven years ago, Marilyn developed cancer in her nasal sinuses. This rare disorder needed treatment at a university center. Neal insisted that Howard and his wife move to Manhattan, where his colleagues at Memorial Sloan Kettering could treat her. For three months, they lived in New York City while Marilyn was being treated. Today, Marilyn is cancer free. Life works in unpredictable ways. Howard met Neal at the first dinner during our freshman week. More than 40 years later, Neal helped Howard's wife live to see and enjoy time with her three grandsons.

Howard expressed distress at the level of antisemitism at Columbia and in the field of psychology in general. I agree with him that this issue must be addressed if our great University is to continue to be a beacon of light in a world filled with dark corners. Howard would love to hear from classmates at hvs3@columbia.edu.

As a side note, Howard's broadcasting partner, James "Jim" Miller '70, has put several of their game broadcasts on YouTube. Listening to them might bring back some great memories of Columbia's athletics success in our years at the College.

I was greatly honored that Dr. **Tony Kestler** once again invited me to present the Irving Martin Preschel Trophy at the Spring Fencing Banquet. I owe a debt of gratitude to both Tony and Coach Michael Aufrichtig for finding the trophy and restoring its tradition. Tony was the 1969 NCAA National Individual Foil champion as well as a two-time All-American in his sport. Michael, who graduated from the NYU Stern School of Business, has returned Columbia's men's and women's fencing teams to the glory days of the past. The story of the trophy involves my father, Dr. Sheldon Preschel '43, and his brother Irving Preschel, who attended NYU before enlisting in the Army as a medic during WWII. Unfortunately, Irving was killed during the war and never graduated from college. My father endowed the trophy in his memory. However, sometime after our class' graduation, the presentation of the trophy to the winner of the meet between the two schools fell into neglect. Tony and Michael resurrected the trophy, and in so doing, honored my father and my uncle. I cannot thank them enough. And better yet, congratulations to the fencing teams and their coaches, as they won the meet again this year.

Dear classmates, this column can only continue if you are willing to share your post-graduate stories with us. Your stories are the lifeblood of this column. Our class has made significant contributions to society, but everyone's story is significant to our class' legacy and our classmates. Inform us about your journey. Thank you.

1972

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Ron Cohen VPS'76 writes about his recent life transition: "After a long and rewarding career in neonatology, I am now fully retired from Stanford. I was lucky enough to spend most of my career working with great friends and mentors there, who graciously allowed me to co-edit our textbook. My wife, Dr. Aileen Cleary Cohen Ph.D. GSAS'96, VPS'97, has joined me in retirement after her career in hematology/oncology. We still live in Palo Alto, but are enjoying our chance to travel widely. I'm trying to get in some midweek skiing in the Sierra.

"My middle child graduated from undergrad at UC Santa Barbara and is now in the Columbia Climate School master's program. Sadly, I cannot get on campus due to security. The neighborhood is unrecognizable. All of our old hangouts [The West End, Ta-Kome, Mama Joy's, etc.] are gone. Carman also is unrecognizable, and Ferris Booth is gone. On the other hand, we walked in Morningside Park with all the happy joggers and dog walkers.

"I hear from my Carman roommates **Tom Shorten** and Eddie Reisner '71, GSAS'77. Best to all classmates!"

Joe Seldner '73, JRN'76 finished a yearlong fellowship at Stanford in August 2023; the program gave him access to all the university's resources.

Arnold Horowitz took some time to look at the current Core Curriculum readings in Humanities and Contemporary Civilization. He notes that compared with our experience, "[I]t is gratifying to see that the changes have been fairly modest compared to what might have happened with the rise of 'cancel culture.' The main changes have been in CC. The selections from Luther in 1968 were from Galatians and *The Bondage of the Will;* now it is Romans and Swabian Peasants (the difference in theme between Galatians and Romans is minor). There is a significant inclusion of Black- and gender-oriented readings, absent in 1968 (women were then also excluded from the College), but well within due bounds. The scope from Augustine and Plato to Bentham and Nietzsche is gratifying to see. One glaring omission, however, is a due selection of seminal texts for the understanding of the U.S. Constitution — Montesquieu and *The Federalist Papers* 47–51 are foundational in this regard, and direly needed, in view of the burning questions of the age. Such readings, properly directed, can do a lot toward expanding the mind and toward thinking about right purposes and conduct. [In my opinion,] the problem today is that universities, even and perhaps especially the elite ones, are little more than glorified trade schools, where a purely instrumental and mechanical approach to life is assumed as the gold standard. Alan Bloom wrote about the closing of the American mind. The turmoil and churn today are directly related, on all sides, to the diminution and closing of minds, [and those] who do not know what they have been reared to do without."

Ed Rogoff BUS'75, GSAS'80 has a new book. *Scary Diagnosis: Navigating Fear, Finding Strength, and Securing the Health Care You Deserve* is aimed at offering "the strategies patients, caregivers and healthcare professionals need to work together while dealing with fearful medical conditions." Ed's interest in the topic undoubtedly stems from his having been diagnosed as a child with hemophilia, a condition that was cured many years later when he received a liver transplant. He teaches at Long Island University and the NYU Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, after many years at CUNY Baruch, where he directed the Lawrence N. Field Center for Entrepreneurship and chaired the Department of Management. Ed writes, "I live in Brooklyn Heights with my wife, Perry-Lynn Moffitt BC'68. Two kids: David, an archaeologist specializing in Mayan sites, and Justine, a Teachers College graduate, who works for the North Carolina Early Intervention Section as a data specialist."

As a proud dad, I'm pleased to add another publication to your reading list. My son Yoni Appelbaum '03, deputy executive editor at *The Atlantic,* has published his first book, *Stuck: How the Privileged and the Propertied Broke the Engine of American Opportunity.* Yoni offers a history of the rise and decline of geographic mobility in America, its relationship to exclusionary zoning and other regulatory approaches that limit housing options, and the consequences for economic well-being, political polarization and social isolation. My review: Great read!

1973

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My pleas for notes having gone unheeded, so I humbly submit:

Joe Seldner JRN'76 finished a yearlong fellowship at Stanford in August 2023; the program gave him access to all the university's resources, which he loved. Joe is doing a lot of writing, as well as being an ambassador to the Stanford Center on Longevity and to his second alma mater, the Yale School of Management, on its Experienced Leaders Initiative Advisory Board.

Joe's son and daughter-in-law moved to Portugal two years ago; his daughter and grandkids were in Ecuador for three years but have returned to the States.

More is better. Hasta.

1974

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It seems like most of us are playing the cruel game that I call "Body Bingo." This is where we are handed a virtual card with outer squares labeled with various body parts (knees, hips, shoulders, prostate — you know the list all too well!) and the inner squares have various afflictions (such as AFIB, hearing loss and the like). As we check off boxes, the goal is *not* to cry out "BINGO"!

This reminds me of a recent conversation with **Kevin Ward** (who splits his time between Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., and Long Beach Island, N.J.) of his periodic luncheons with his football teammates and other Columbia buddies. He said they start each gathering with what they call "the five-minute organ recital," where they go around the table and list their latest ache or pain. With that out of the way, he says they can talk about all the good things going on in their lives.

Some of us might benefit from the learned counsel of Dr. **Gary Friedman.** For the last 47 years he has been a neurologist and phys-

iatrist (i.e., a rehabilitation doctor) at the Brookdale Hospital Medical Center in Brooklyn. He tells us the wide scope of his practice — everything from back and neck pain, to dementia and epilepsy — keeps his practice interesting. Fortunately for us, he says he has no plans to retire anytime soon!

Ever wonder about femtosecond laser spectroscopy or high-performance nanotechnology propellants? Didn't think so. But **Dana Dlott** has devoted nearly half a century to investigating these areas. After finishing a Ph.D. in chemistry at Stanford in 1979, he joined the faculty at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign as a professor of physical and materials chemistry. There Dana taught for 38 years and has now shifted to do full-time research into what happens to bombs, satellites and hypersonic missiles when they collide with high velocity particles (such as "space junk").

After spending a few decades practicing law in the New York area and southern California, **Erik Eriksson** moved to Houston, where he worked his way up to the role of chief legal officer at the Port of Houston Authority. There he is kept busy helping to manage the authority's eight public terminals and two container terminals. Erik tells us that he has maintained the Columbia heritage with a daughter who graduated from Barnard and a son who got an M.F.A. from the School of the Arts. Erik adds that he plans to retire by year-end.

While most of us are either retired or envision it in the not-too-distant future, our kids are in the early part of their careers and often are more inclined to take risks. Such is the case where **Scott Kunst** (who lives in Ann Arbor, Mich.) retired from a teaching career and sold Old House Gardens (his company, a purveyor of historical flower bulbs) to have more time for reading, gardening, yoga and seeing his grandkids. His son Dave, however, left his executive position at Lyft to start a company that helps with the critical nursing shortage we have in the United States. Gateway Health brings in nurses from the developing world (Nigeria, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia and others) and places them in hospitals around the U.S.

Also having a career that has involved what we used to call "the third world" is **Bill Duggan** GSAS'86 (who lives in New York City). He earned a Ph.D. in economic history in 1986 and for the next 20 years worked on African economic development (spending 10 years living in Africa). Returning to the U.S. he was at the Ford Foundation headquarters in NYC. Since 2004 Bill has been on the faculty of the Business School, teaching strategic thinking. During his varied career he has found time to write 10 business books and two novels. Bill married a Barnard woman and they have a daughter finishing a B.A. at The American University of Paris.

There you have it. Classmates learning to accept the inevitable signs of aging while other classmates help us postpone the same. Some of us shifting out of work mode while others are wanting to continue in their lifelong professions. There are many paths, and it seems each of us is choosing the one that is right for ourselves.

SUBMIT A CLASS NOTES PHOTO

- Photos must feature at least two College alumni.
- All photos must be submitted using the online webform **college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.**
- Photos that do not meet the size parameters for print will run online.

1975

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The Spring semester brought some interesting news, to say the least. In the last issue, I mentioned how I thought then-interim president Dr. Katrina Armstrong seemed to be helping improve campus life by closing the Gates to unauthorized people. Only Columbia affiliates could enter the Morningside campus, and only upon scanning a valid Columbia University ID. More recently, following the election of President Trump, which I daresay was not a popular event on campus, the Trump administration announced that it was unsatisfied with how the Columbia administration was handling antisemitism on campus. The Trump administration froze $400 million in funding from the federal government to Columbia unless Columbia would agree to implement a nine-point agenda to reduce the harassment and intimidation of Jewish students. Armstrong appeared to agree, and then stepped down from her interim president role soon after and returned to her roles at the Columbia University Irving Medical Center/NewYork Presbyterian Hospital, as the Board of Trustees had apparently lost confidence in her ability to negotiate with the Trump administration.

Predictably, I received strong messages both for and against the freezing of funds and and about Armstrong's stepping down. Board of Trustees co-chair Claire Shipman '86, SIPA'94 was then named acting president, and that's where matters stand as of the submission of this column. What bothers me is that most of the funds are earmarked for scientific and medical research, which doesn't seem to have much to do with politics on campus. Let's hope that the matter gets resolved quickly and with the least damage to the University and its reputation.

On a brighter note, I recently reconnected with **Eugene Davis** SIPA'76, LAW'80 during a visit to Boca Raton, Fla., where he now spends most of the winter season. He is emphatically not retired.

Jeff Seroy and **Doug Stumpf** GSAS'78 (M.A. in musicology) write: "We are in our 50th year as a couple. We met sophomore year at Columbia in Russian class, and started dating in the spring of senior year, having been reintroduced by our mutual friend **Richard Horn**, who passed away in 1989. After a lifetime as a book editor and then magazine editor (Doug), and as a book publicist and then senior publishing executive (Jeff), we are now happily retired and living in the Hudson River Valley. And we were officially married in 2008."

On a sad note, I recently learned that **Isadore J. "Dore" Gold** SIPA'79, GSAS'84, former foreign affairs adviser to Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu, passed away. He earned a doctorate in Middle Eastern studies, had published several books and was formerly Israel's ambassador to the United Nations. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct.]

1976

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Starting the column with the original cast album of a 1979 revival of *Oklahoma!* created by two Columbia alums! I need the optimism of "The corn is as high as an elephant's eye" and "Oh, what a beautiful mornin'!" Regarding the March events involving Columbia and the United States, I have chosen to run just the comments without attribution and then give the usual updates:

"I hope you are well. Unfortunately, our university is not. Columbia's decision to capitulate to the demands of the Trump administration in regard to academic freedom in order to protect $400 million of research grants?" "You can write that at least one '76er, if not more, is absolutely disgusted by the University's utter capitulation to Trump's extortion. … Columbia should have acted in concert with similar institutions. The president of Princeton has been very clear about this. No need to fight alone." "I'm disappointed that Columbia has allowed itself to be intimidated by fear from the Trump administration. This is not what Columbia taught us." "Fascism came to Columbia and Columbia rolled over. I am ashamed."

Gara LaMarche starts his update with his thoughts on Columbia and specifically asked for attribution. He writes: "I am appalled by alma mater's capitulation to the unconstitutional demands of the Trump administration."

Gara continues: "I stepped down from my last CEO position, at Democracy Alliance, a few years ago and am enjoying a portfolio of work that is still heavily focused on democracy, social justice and public media, all preoccupations of my almost-50-year career that are in grave danger in the current political environment. I co-founded and co-chair Leadership for Democracy

and Social Justice at CUNY, where I also teach and am a Leader-in-Residence at the Colin Powell School. I have a variety of consultant roles, working with foundations and nonprofits focusing on criminal justice, housing, democracy and intergenerational connection. It's been a challenging year with my wife Lisa's serious illness, but she is steadily getting better. Our four grandchildren are a source of constant joy."

Michael Gilbride: "Working on a third book; no title yet. Doing lots of reading. Read Dean Peter Pouncey's *Rules for Old Men Waiting*. Thinking sometimes of the friendship I had with poets Allen Ginsberg '48, Peter Orlovsky and John Giorno '58. Where did the time go?"

Frank Jacobyansky: "I live in Connellsville, Pa., the birthplace of Edwin S. Porter, who was this country's first great film director. His magnum opus was 1903's *The Great Train Robbery*. We put on the inaugural Porter Film Fest in 2024, with several of Porter's films, a Keaton film and live accompaniment from the Peacherine Ragtime Society Orchestra. The second annual event will be this Sept. 13. I will give free tickets to any classmate. I had the pleasure of talking with my former roommate Steve Galasky '76, SEAS'78, an ER physician in Phoenix. Like him, I am still practicing (dentistry) and probably will until I die. I was recently presented the Greater Connellsville's Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Citizen Award, for a lifetime of community service."

Tim Teeter GSAS'89 is still teaching and as I write this is in the middle of a semester teaching in a study abroad program based in Siena, Italy. As he concludes, "Will he ever retire? Stay tuned."

Lawrence M. Katz was honored with the the Jewish Educators Assembly's Lifetime Achievement Award in March 2024. Larry retired in 2023 from the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, which concluded 45 years in Jewish education, primarily in central agencies and as the director of some schools. In 2010, he was awarded a doctor of pedagogy, honoris causa, by the Jewish Theological Seminary. Larry lives in Providence with his wife, Marilyn.

Reynold Verret: "I had the pleasure to offer the Bernadin Lecture on Feb. 4 at Georgetown, 'Unity of the Liberal Arts: Sciences & Humanities, Faith & Reason, and Catholic Higher Education.'" Reynold is the president of Xavier University of Louisiana.

Ira Breskin JRN'92: "In the shadow of Harvard Square, I became reacquainted with Norm Alster '66, JRN'67 near his residence in Cambridge in October 2024. We discussed the seminal role of a crusading, free press. Norm and I were colleagues when reporting for *Investor's Business Daily* in the 1990s. This is the third such 'clandestine' visit tied to my occasional business or leisure trips to Beantown. I look forward to a fourth visit in the near future."

Mozelle Thompson SIPA'79, LAW'81: "I hosted a dinner at my Washington, D.C., home in March, partnering with the Center for Career Education, [for a group of students] who were on a trip to learn about careers in D.C. There were 20 students and two administrators present. We were also joined by William Langer '04, assistant general counsel of the National Endowment for the Arts, and Kristopher Jenner '25 (former Lions quarterback), who works for Gov. Wes Moore (D-Md.) and was recently awarded a two-year Fulbright Fellowship to France. We had a great time talking to the students about their plans." See the nearby photo!

Mozelle Thompson '76 hosted 20 students from Columbia College, Columbia Engineering and Columbia General Studies, plus two young alumni and two administrators, at his Washington, D.C., home on March 21 to discuss the students' future plans.

Robert Giusti '76 (left), the 2024 honoree at the Cystic Fibrosis Breath of Life Gala, was joined by his daughter Elizabeth Kipp-Giusti '12 and his nephew-in-law Tom Kitt '96 on Nov. 20 at Cipriani 42nd Street.

Tom Motley, reporting from West Palm Beach: " … where I spend 80 percent of my time; the remaining time is spent in Washington, D.C., as a senior judge on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. Enjoying the Florida weather by bike riding, swimming and golfing, along with playing chess with my brother, Frank Motley '70, LAW'74, who is also semi-retired in West Palm Beach. We often lament the challenges facing Columbia."

Charles Philipp Martin: "It's never enough to write a crime novel these days; you need to spend as much time promoting it as writing the next one. Mid-March saw me in Denver for the Left Coast Crime convention, where I appeared on a panel about writing police procedurals, and delved into my attempts to add authenticity to *Rented Grave*. Mystery writers are a collegial and witty lot, which makes these conclaves a lot of fun. Next up is the big one: Bouchercon2025, in New Orleans in September."

Gary Lehman BUS'80, SIPA'80: "I might just do it … been working 54 years (paper route, golf caddy, food truck cook, security guard, 36 years at IBM, then TSA/TSA HQ and FEMA/public sector recovery). I applied for/was awarded the recently offered buyout at FEMA, which I accepted. So, is this a wrap? Maybe. Going on vacation shortly with wife Linda SIPA'80 and will try to nail down the answer. We're off to Senegal, Guinea-Bissau and Bijagós Islands archipelago/Smithsonian (in the footsteps of Kunta Kinte, of Alex Haley's *Roots*). Should be spellbinding! May we all live long and prosper!"

Robert Giusti PH'77 was the 2024 honoree at the Cystic Fibrosis Breath of Life Gala: "I spoke about the tremendous improvement in quality of life and survival in children and adults with cystic fibrosis during the 40 years of my career as a pediatric pulmonologist and CF center director. The CF Foundation has been a model for raising funds to support research and development of therapies." See the nearby photo!

Remember, our 50th is next year! Keep those updates coming!

1977

David Gorman
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Tom Worcester S.J., a professor of history at Fordham, has been a

regular correspondent, and has lately provided some memories of his time at Reid Hall in Paris, which he visited in 1974 and 1976. Herewith is the first part of his recollections (the rest to follow).

Tom begins by calling his choice of a French major "one of the best decisions I ever made. The French department was exceptionally strong, and I remember outstanding professors such as Nancy Miller and Gita May GSAS'57." He continues, "In summer 1974 I spent six weeks in Paris, living at Reid Hall, taking two courses there, one on reading French, and one on speaking the language. The people in these courses were an interesting mix of Columbia and Barnard students, as well as some others, including older students. We quickly got on well, as our conversations in the pleasant courtyards of Reid Hall easily fostered new friendships."

Tom continues: "I have an indelible memory of going one evening with several other students to Versailles, to see a fireworks display. It was offered by French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, who had been in office but a few weeks. That evening the Gardens of Versailles were well lit, the impressive fountains were overflowing and an astonishing fireworks display overwhelmed us. The sky was covered with blazing colors, outclassing by far any kind of fireworks I had ever seen anywhere, or indeed have seen since."

Geez, this makes me feel like such a lowbrow. All that I could offer by way of similar memories is what it was like to hang out at The West End. I remember skipping class to have an early beer, and kids wearing school uniforms coming in around 3:00 p.m.to play the first-generation video games, like Asteroids and Pong. Imagine anything like that that happening today ...

Like **Bill Dorsey**, another regular contributor, I am hoping to make it to Columbia Reunion 2027. He adds, "As I face the beginning of my eighth decade, I continue to live in Santa Rosa, Calif. Now retired three years, I divide my time among volunteering for the Red Cross as a disaster mental health counselor; traveling with my wife, Lynn, to see our sons in Los Angeles and Manhattan, and other fun destinations; and playing drums in rock and jazz bands around Sonoma County. I enjoy an occasional cold beer from one of the many craft breweries in the area. I also discovered that the brother of former Columbia president Lee C. Bollinger lives around the corner from me!"

Bill goes on, "Columbia days seem like 'a long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away,' but I know all those philosophy and psychology classes prepared me well for my career in social work, and for life in general. As I look back, I feel happy and satisfied with a life well lived, with more fun ahead!"

1978

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In a year that continues to shock and surprise, Columbia has, for the first time since 1968, risen to the level of a national exemplar of the American university, for good or bad. It is not my purpose to add commentary to this reality, especially given the publishing lag. I will let you speak for the state of the thinking this past spring and say how proud we all are of the women's basketball team, and are still thinking about the football team. The rest is for the ages.

Edward Rosenfeld GSAS'80, head of Rosenfeld Media, a designer of online user experiences, opens the conversation with his comments, "President Trump is attacking Columbia for being antisemitic. Now, whenever he attacks someone for something, he is usually doing what he alleges. I think it is clear that since our graduation, 50 years of right-wing activism is destroying our democracy."

After a 44-year career in university and not-for-profit finance and management, **Joseph Giovannelli** GSAS'79, a longtime volunteer with the College's Alumni Relations division and reunions, retired this year. "I started and ended at Columbia, most recently as senior associate dean, education administration and finance, at VP&S. I'm turning to other passions, including being on the board of Habitat for Humanity in the beautiful upper Hudson Valley, where we have a home, and I'm also involved in local politics. Helping students, faculty and colleagues was deeply satisfying. I am aghast and appalled at the Trump administration's planned and systematic attacks on Columbia and higher ed and all that it represents.

"I would hope that all alumni, who owe so much to this institution for shaping us into the kind and thoughtful people we are, will step up and defend Columbia with their voices, their wallets and their votes."

Gary Pickholz SIPA'81 has joined the Trump 2.0 economic team, as a bipartisan policy expert; this is the fifth presidential administration of which he has been a part. Gary opines, "Once, I was the young whiz kid from Columbia; now, I am the old man — Dr. No — keeping the brilliant, if not fully housebroken, puppies from peeing on the expensive carpets. The problem with security clearance in our era is that a restful night of sleep becomes impossible. I preferred blissful ignorance. I will be looking to redefine Western capitalism and democracy for the new era. We are witnessing a profound shift in both capitalism and geopolitics, and we are entering a new and distinctly different century, just as the 1910s and 1920s marked the world we once knew."

Dr. **Joel Nathanson** writes, "I find it impossible to make this your typical alumni note." Joel wrote an eloquent commentary on the school but asked that it not be published. He, like many of you, is in pain over various aspects of the current campus situation.

Tom Bisdale explains, "After 40 years of homeownership in suburban Bergen County, N.J., I write from a new apartment in Hackensack, where we lived when first married. Flooding during the last 35 years became too much to bear, and whatever sentimentality we might have felt was overwhelmed by the daunting task of disposing of 40 years' worth of stuff. I also pulled the rip cord and announced my retirement from Hearst after 45 years. I hope my free time will be well used in the nonprofit ventures I've been involved in, and I will also devote more attention to my musical endeavors. And, of course, to grandfatherhood."

Tom has "stayed in touch with **Gary Blackman**, **Mark Blackman**, **David Freinberg**, **Fred Rosenstein** and **Anthony Dellicarri**, and has enjoyed watching **Rob Freeberg** and his band streaming from his Vermont Jazz Center."

"I'm celebrating the birth of my second grandchild, Henry, named after my dad, who was Herman; they are both called Hank," says **David J. Margules.** "I was in Jerusalem in January and had dinner with **Merrill 'Max' Weber** and his wife, Robin. Max is doing well. He is the president/CEO of a promising medical device startup. They live in a beautiful apartment in a nice Jerusalem neighborhood. His worldview and sense of humor are intact.

"We spoke about our years on Morningside Heights, recalling days when Jews felt safe there."

George Bloom writes, "I've retired after a long career in computer software sales. I was on the Columbia track team and kept in touch with teammates. After Sept. 11, 2001, we began a tradition of meeting every summer at the Jersey Shore. This decision was driven by the loss of one of our team members, **Robert Murach**, in the Twin Towers. We call it the 'Roar at the Shore.'

"With my wife, Kristen, and our daughter, Jenna, I traveled to London last summer. Our journeys this year will be focused on the colleges that Jenna is interested in attending next year. Once we're empty-nesters, we'll be heading to Europe much more.

"Sadly, I believe there has been a fundamental change in our belief system since we graduated. Easy access to information — both true and false — has created a more hostile environment than at any other time I can recall. The notion of compromise for the greater good has been obliterated. The challenge to our rule of law, as defined in the Constitution, is under assault."

Paul Tumbleson is another happy granddad. "I retired from full-time legal practice with Chubb insurance. This allowed me to spend more time with my now two grandkids, who conveniently live down the street from what we called Baker Field. It also allowed me to do volunteer work for Kamala's campaign, which I enjoyed until election night. I try to get to Homecoming with Joe Paranac '76, David Gawarecki '75 and **Ed Crown.**

"The new Trump presidency seems fundamentally different than the first. Things will not revert to how they were before after it is done. How it will change depends on how we react to the damage being done to our institutions and expectations.

Joseph Schifilliti says, "Retirement has opened the door to a new

career as a medical-legal consultant. It provides some structure for my day-to-day as well as intellectual challenges and exposure to interesting professionals."

Joe has stayed in touch with **Peter Pantaleo** and Jaime Ladesma.

Barry Rosenblatt, of SME Biotech Consulting, has joined the grandfather club. "It fills in the spaces between my biotech consulting and expert witness work. My career followed a winding path from a three-year biochemistry degree to a Ph.D. in cell biology, immunology and microbiology at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. I did a post-doc at American Cyanamid, working on large animals, and then moved to Johnson & Johnson and Centocor, where I was at the forefront of therapeutic monoclonal antibodies. I expanded the services of Charles River Laboratories and eventually started my own consulting business."

We end with **Yale Reisner** and a marvelous story: "In the 31st year of a two-year contract in Warsaw, Poland, now on the staff of the Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute helping Poles examine their Jewish roots (often hidden to them) and Jews around the world research their Polish, Ukrainian, Belarusian and Lithuanian roots. The demand is enormous and unceasing. The recent elections have generated interest in acquiring European citizenship. I am also thoroughly enjoying my grandson Aaron, also here in Warsaw. Please say hello when visiting Warsaw!"

Please go to this column online at college.columbia.edu/cct to read notes from **Marvin Siegfried, Anthony Dellicarri, John A. Glusman** and **Craig Christopher Carter.**

1979

Robert C. Klapper
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Jeff Frieden GSAS'84 reports he hasn't been much of a correspondent through the years. "Perhaps it's because I lived off campus (in Williamsburg, long before it was trendy) and commuted and didn't get to know many classmates. In any case, after many years in exile I have returned to my hometown and to alma mater. After 12 years at UCLA, and 29 years at Harvard, as empty-nesters my wife and I decided it was finally time to return to the motherland and the mothership. I study the intersection of international economics and international politics and am now a professor of international and public affairs and political science (i.e., joint between political science and SIPA) and very much enjoy being back."

In November, **Mauricio "Maurice" Matiz SEAS'79,** SEAS'84 was elected to the Ultimate Hall of Fame. Maurice was Columbia's star Ultimate Frisbee player 1977–79. From the tens of millions of people who have played Ultimate Frisbee since its creation in 1968, only 65 male players have been elected to its Hall of Fame, and for the first time, it recognized a Columbia player's career. (See the nearby photo.)

Maurice was born in Bogotá, Colombia; grew up in Astoria, Queens; and attended Long Island City H.S. before enrolling at Columbia. He recently closed out a 42-year career at Columbia, where he was co-founder of the Center for New Media Teaching and Learning, now part of the Center for Teaching and Learning.

John "Jack" A. Don dons many hats. He's a sole practitioner workers' compensation attorney in San Diego who sits on the Board of Directors & Education Committee for the California Applicants' Attorney Association. He also chairs the San Diego County Bar Association, Workers' Compensation Section, and is the head coach of the Crawford H.S. Mock Trial team. Jack's best title is that of "avid hiker and rough water swimmer off La Jolla Cove!"

Robert C. Klapper: "Today's Columbia thought comes from reading the University's magazine for all alumni, *Columbia.* The Fall 2024 issue features an article about Columbia archaeologist Dylan Davis' two years of research and discoveries on the prehistoric Easter Island. The narrative of the Rapi Nui — the people who inhabit this most remote island in the South Pacific — has been one of ecocide (read the article online at bit.ly/3Ey3d7k). We are told of the ecological ruin by the islanders who killed all of the animals and chopped down all the trees, so they could no longer build boats to fish, leading to their own demise. But due to Davis' latest research, the narrative has changed and in fact these islanders should be celebrated for their resiliency in adapting to the harsh circumstances of their home.

"I have been fascinated by this story since I saw the *National Geographic* and *Life* photos of the giant rock sculptures, called Moai, that inhabit the island. (There are 1,000 of these sculptures in different stages of development, from horizontal and still in the volcanic quarry to tilted and straight representations, as they make their way down the slope of the volcanic quarry to the sea.) The islanders believed that when carved horizontally in the island, they would merely be sculptures called Moai. But when they achieve their resting place and were made vertical, they became alive and would now look over the village; the sculptures represented the features of the island's forefathers and would be protectors.

"The article in *Columbia* was so fascinating and made me so proud to be an alumnus of the College that it inspired me to schlep my wife 11 hours from Los Angeles to Santiago, with a 12-hour layover because there is only one flight a day to this remote island, and then a five-hour flight from Santiago to Rapa Nui. I spent five days this past February visiting every aspect of this remarkable place. One can appreciate Davis' work when seen through the eyes of people to be celebrated, not ridiculed. The spiritual nature of these people is palpable. I encourage all of you to make time in the years you have left to because it truly will touch you in a way that no other trip will. To some extent, the marriage of art and science, which has been in the forefront of the Core Curriculum we experienced 50 years ago, makes this story even more special to a College alumnus. Roar, Lion, Roar!"

An Ultimate Frisbee players reunion was held at Dublin House in NYC on Jan. 7. Attending were Mike Forlenza '78, Mike Strage '82, Jerry McManus '89, Alex Bagley '80, Mauricio "Maurice" Matiz SEAS'79, Mark Silverschotz '78, Phil Hirschhorn '84, Bob Kennelly SEAS'81, Phil Vlahakis BUS'97, Steve Kane '80, Ken Gary SEAS'81 and Andy Bornstein JRN'87.

1980

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"And don't speak too soon
"For the wheel's still in spin
"And there's no tellin' who that
it's namin'
"For the loser now
"Will be later to win
"For the times, they are a-changin'"
— Bob Dylan, "The Times They Are A-Changin'," 1964

It's still hard to believe that 45 years have passed since graduation, and as I like to say, we are "aging like a fine wine!" It was wonderful to see many of you at reunion; I will have more in the Fall 2025 issue. Suffice to say, I thank my fellow Reunion Committee members, **Steve Kane, Van Gothner, Neil Sader, Scott Habib** and **Robert Pini,** for all their hard work and effort to make the 45th a success. It was great to see **Jay Kutlow** in the house and we are so glad that the curse of Alexander Hamilton CC 1778 has been lifted from our athletics programs.

The 37th football golf outing was a tremendous success, as the Class of '80 bested the Class of '81 on a match of cards. We fielded an 8-some, with **Scott Ahern, Eric Blattman, Joe Ciulla, Shawn FitzGerald** (usual suspect), **Dave Cromwick SEAS'80, Steve McCarthy SEAS'80, Ray Stukes** and **Gary Whittemore.** And **Mario Biaggi, Brian O'Hagan, Mike Riordan** and **AJ Sabatelle** joined us for dinner, so this marked the largest turnout. Head football coach Jon Poppe gave an inspiring talk on the spring season, and we have high expectations for this year's squad.

Congratulations to **Mike Manuche** on his recent hole in one on the tough number 5 at the Dinah Shore Tournament Course at Mission Hills in Rancho Mirage, Calif. Rumor was he feathered a 6 iron over the pond for a slam dunk!

Drop me a line at mcbcu80@yahoo.com.

1981

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Thanks go to **Howard Tucker,** our first classmate to confirm his reliance upon Miss Dee for typing services. "I readily admit to hiring Miss Dee," he says. "Among my many deficiencies is an inability to type fast and accurately. Miss Dee was an interesting person, and she bailed me out on several occasions when I needed help. She lived with her brother, and I remember going to her apartment, which had an eclectic decor. Miss Dee and her brother were both very pleasant, and I recall her prices were reasonable. While she seemed a bit odd, I was an overly judgmental undergrad who had little life experience. Looking back on it, I was likely the odd one!

"On eating places, my favorite, other than Chock full o'Nuts, where one could engage Professor Wallace Gray (English and comparative literature) in a conversation whether you were a student of his or not, was Happy Burger, between 110th and 111th on the west side of Broadway. Juicy burgers and oily fries — wish I were still in my late teens. I also recall a pretzel vendor who set up shop outside the 116th Street gate on Broadway. He had a reddish mark on his face, was a nice man and really had mastered the art of preparing pretzels over charcoal while still keeping them soft.

"Professor Joseph Bauke, a really great guy who was a professor of German and also chair of the department, I believe had the largest collection of Sam Steinberg's paintings. I took a class with Bauke, who was always approachable and affable, much like Professor Karl-Ludwig Selig (Spanish literature). You could stop by Bauke's office and just shoot the breeze. He genuinely loved the students, and his untimely death at 52 from a heart attack was a loss to me and certainly to the College community. It was extremely sad."

Bill Farrell LAW'86 and his wife, Nancy, are thriving in Long Island City, where they make the most of the cultural, educational and dining opportunities afforded by the Big Apple. With subscriptions to Lincoln Center, Roundabout Theater Company, Encores!, Manhattan Theatre Club and Off-Broadway theater companies, they expected to average one production a week by the end of 2024. Bill also regularly attends lectures at the CUNY Grad Center and Hunter College's Roosevelt House. Bill and Nancy met at City Center's Manhattan Theatre Club in 2003 when they separately attended *Humble Boy; The New York Times* later published Nancy's charming account of that meeting in the Metropolitan Diary ("Take a Chance," online at bit.ly/3Gy5m3i). They celebrated their 20th anniversary in September 2023.

Following graduation, Bill studied history at GSAS. However, he changed course after two years and strolled across Amsterdam to the Law School. Now retired, Bill practiced law for a number of years before a "most enjoyable and stimulating" run as a headhunter in the financial sector.

Bill was introduced to Morningside Heights well before his nine years as a student. His dad, Joseph Farrell '49, LAW'52, took him to visit when he was a freshman in high school and on a later occasion to do research in the CU Libraries. Like a number of us with fathers who graduated from Columbia, Bill's dad took him to some football games at Baker Field. Bill notes that his father's college class included Sen. Frank Lautenberg BUS'49 (D-N.J.) and Professor James Shenton '49, GSAS'54. Shenton, like the elder Farrell, commuted from New Jersey.

Bill fondly recalls having taken 25–28 credits with Professor Shenton. Unlike most of us, Bill took both CC and Lit Hum during his freshman year, back-to-back on Tuesdays and Thursdays. He recalls well both his CC instructor, Myron Magnet '66, GSAS'77, who became an author, journalist and political commentator; and his Lit Hum instructor, Dan Lloyd GSAS'83, who at the time was a graduate student and is now the Brownell Professor of Philosophy, Emeritus after 35 years at Trinity College. Bill and Dan reconnected some years ago when Bill learned from a fellow Columbia grad student in history that she was married to Dan(!), and they have remained friends. Bill also recalled a great American literature course taught by Sacvan Bercovitch, who soon moved on to Harvard, where *The Harvard Gazette* described him as "his generation's foremost scholar of Puritan America."

Many of us remember our "Freshman Comp" class. Bill's section was small, with only five people, of which only three showed up regularly, but he gives great marks to instructor Joyce Rowe GSAS'85, then a graduate student in the English department. After she earned a Ph.D. she joined the faculty at Fordham, where she taught 19th-century American literature for many years.

Bill fondly recalls his wedding reception at another iconic venue, The Terrace in the Sky, high atop Butler Hall, "where the wine was wonderful, the floral arrangements done to perfection and the views incomparable." **Dave Cook** delivered the toast.

Some may recall that our 20th reunion class dinner was held at The Terrace in the Sky. Butler Hall still stands on West 119th Street and had its centennial in 2024. The building is part of Columbia Housing and home to students, postdocs, faculty and staff. But The Terrace in the Sky exists no longer, alas, having now become a "Spirit in the Sky" (remember that great 1969 song by Norman Greenbaum?), where it joins many other venues that exist only in our memories.

Many of us attended games and reveled in the success of Lions football. **Jack O'Loughlin** writes from Boston: "A group of early '80s CU alums got together in late September for the Columbia-Georgetown game in Washington, D.C. **Bill Epling SEAS'81,** BUS'83 hosted pre- and post-game festivities at his place near campus, reprising a similar gathering from two years prior. Attending were Joe Beggan '82, SEAS'82; **Dino Lombardi; Sean D'Arcy; Bill Haney; Tom Windas SEAS'81;** Michael Casey '80, SIPA'81; Robert Fronk '83; Dr. Mike Pagnani '83; Mike Fortine '85; Tom Holoka '83; and Jim Fitzpatrick '82. It was a beautiful day and wonderful hospitality but we left the game disheartened by CU's poor play late in the contest, which cost us the lead and handed the game to Georgetown. Not in our wildest dreams did we anticipate that the Lions would ultimately share the Ivy title for the first time in 63 years. We had a great weekend together, and congrats to the Lions!"

Retired for three years following 40 years in banking, Jack, like a number of classmates, has returned to academia. He is a member of the inaugural Boston College Companions program, auditing courses in art history, music, theology and philosophy. He remains active on the Columbia Alumni Association of Boston Board of Directors and usually attends football and basketball games when the Lions visit Harvard.

We close on a sad note, as Jack shared that **Bill "Nick" Nickerson Jr.** passed away suddenly on Jan. 24, 2025. "Nick played football fresh-

SUBMIT A CLASS NOTES PHOTO

- Photos must feature at least two College alumni.
- All photos must be submitted using the online webform **college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.**
- Photos that do not meet the size parameters for print will run online.

man year and lived in ZBT. He worked in economic development for the City of Boston where he was loved and respected for his warmth, good humor and sartorial splendor. **Dino Lombardi, Paul Campbell,** Frank Iarrobino '82, Joe Beggan '82 and I attended the funeral, and Dino delivered an eloquent eulogy." [Editor's note: See "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu.]

Freshman Comp served as a wake-up call for many of us. The subject comes up frequently in correspondence with classmates. Many notables taught this course early in their academic careers before they became notable. We'd like to do a column dedicated to Freshman Comp, and invite you to write in with your recollections.

1982

Joseph A. Cabrera
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No news this time. Enjoy the rest of the summer, and please send me an update for a future issue!

1983

Roy Pomerantz
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Greetings, classmates!

Gerrard Bushell GSAS'04: "I am no longer at the airport. I am excited to transition and take my next step forward, to the third act. For the last five years I was president and CEO of the New Terminal One at John F. Kennedy International Airport, the nation's largest public private infrastructure project, valued at $9.5 billion. The New Terminal One Project is a portfolio company of The Carlyle Group. After successfully taking the project through lease, financial close, achievement of critical construction and financial milestones, as well as creating more than 6,000 jobs, I have taken on the role of senior adviser and operating executive at The Carlyle Group, where I will continue to work with a great group of colleagues who made the New Terminal One Project possible. I will continue in my role as the chair of the Carlyle Airport Group, the transportation investment platform for Carlyle's Global Infrastructure fund, which made the investment in the New Terminal One Project in 2019.

"I look forward to helping raise our next fund, and I look forward to working with the CEOs of our portfolio companies across our infrastructure fund to support them as they drive development and create jobs. We will work hard to continue creating value. At this point in my life it's all about making sure I have fun and enjoy what I am doing. So far, so good."

Rob Drew: "I teach and live in Michigan with my partner of 27 years, Amy BC'84 (née Keogh). My book *Unspooled: How the Cassette Made Music Shareable* was named one of the year's best music books by *Variety* magazine."

Michael Broder: "I got same-sex married in 2004 and same-sex divorced in 2024. All the cool kids are doing it. I snagged an M.F.A. in poetry from NYU in 2005 and a Ph.D. in classics from the CUNY Graduate Center in 2010. Adjuncted at Brooklyn College and other CUNY colleges for about eight years. Was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of South Carolina 2011–12. I started a boutique indie poetry press in 2015. All of this was against the backdrop of a 30-plus-year career in medical communications. Now I'm living on investments and managing the press full time. Starting to write more of my own work again. All in all, not fading away easily; rather, making some of the biggest noise I've ever made."

Ron Blum: "Last November, after watching 45 years of Columbia football filled mostly with defeats, I got to cover Columbia's win over Cornell — a victory that gave the Lions a share of the Ivy League title for the first time since 1971 — for The Associated Press."

Ken Chin: "I'm sad to read about the campus events of the past year, which include the occupation of buildings to the departure of two presidents. After the turmoil in 1968, I recall someone telling me that Columbia's reputation only began to recover around the time our class came to campus. Given the Class of 1983's successes, we should take credit for the turnaround. Sadly, history seems to be repeating itself.

"I am president-elect of the American College of Commercial Finance Lawyers. My law firm, Kramer Levin, is combining with Herbert Smith Freehills into a global firm with 2,900 lawyers and 25-plus offices. I never would have imagined these, but my Columbia education put me on the right track for some of these accomplishments. My wife, Lisa, left government again and is now a partner at the law firm of Rosenberg & Estis in NYC. My sons: Nick (31) is a techie at Mendix in Boston and Austin (28) is a credit analyst at NYC's Housing Development Corp.

"I look forward to our next reunion and for updates in Class Notes in the interim."

"As I write this, I'm in Amsterdam following a Viking European River Cruise along the Danube, Main and Rhine starting in Bucharest and ending here (Amsterdam), including eight countries. Between not being in shape and an aging bad ankle (broken in three places) from being mugged in 1989, I discovered many of my much-older shipmates were far out-walking me. Embarrassing but reality. It was a fabulous trip but especially in eastern Europe, be aware the ship docks in towns with cobblestones, stairs, inclines and hours of walking and standing, as many streets do not allow buses.

"I touched on this in my last Class Note: I had to put my mom in a care facility due to dementia and congestive heart failure. She passed away in June at 89.

"I was back on campus in January 2024 for the 125th anniversary of Columbia's swim team and Coach Jim Bolster's 40th year.

"My best to everyone and especially the students as they navigate the issues surrounding protests on campus. I support the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of freedom."

Love to all! Everywhere!

Ron Blum '83: "Last November, after watching 45 years of Columbia football filled mostly with defeats, I got to cover our win over Cornell for The Associated Press."

Kevin Cronin's family: "I am sad to share that our brother Kevin Cronin passed away this morning [on March 6, 2025] after a long struggle with aplastic anemia. So many of you voiced your love, prayers and memories. We shared them all with Kevin before he passed and I'm sure he heard them and appreciated the kindness and returns the love.

"Kevin was a loving brother and a friend to so many. As sick as he was, he never let it slow him down. He was a fierce advocate for Cleveland and the issues he believed in. He was a protector of children in terrible circumstances through no fault of their own.

"But mostly, we will miss him and wish him peace. He was a good and kind person."

Howard Guess: "The year 2023–24 was a time of changes, realizations and challenges. In 2023, we celebrated our 40th class reunion. I had trouble climbing the Low Steps, to discover I needed a hip replacement due to issues I had prior to birth. The slow decline caused me to become physically very deconditioned. At reunion, a younger graduate asked me what my greatest accomplishment was while an undergraduate. Without hesitation, I said graduating. Maybe I'll share why another time. My hip replacement went well and I thought I was good but did not become active enough, apparently.

1984

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As we celebrate our 41st year, and as the baseball season has officially started, I think — as only a Mets fan can — of Tom Seaver, number 41, the pitching great known as "The Franchise."

If you recall from my Winter/Spring 2025 column, our class is fortunate to share another such "Franchise" with today's students: none other than our dean of students, Roger Lehecka '67, GSAS'74.

To those who might have missed my column: After a period of teaching at the College, followed by a brief retirement, the dean once again took

the reins at a time when Columbia needs him more than ever.

To those who might may have missed my e-blast to the class, and certainly, for those outside the class who kindly read this column: Roger has another legacy at Columbia that needs our help.

While he was a student, Roger, along with other student leaders and the late, great Professor Jim Shenton '49, GSAS'54, founded Double Discovery. As the website (ddc.college.columbia.edu) so aptly explains: "The Double Discovery Center is dedicated to helping first-generation students from low-income neighborhoods in Harlem and Washington Heights achieve their college dreams. We provide a comprehensive program that includes academic support, emotional and social learning, and a lasting support network. Our goal is to broaden the horizons of our students and our perspectives. The success of our mission relies heavily on the generosity of our donors, whose contributions are vital in making a lasting impact in these communities."

Renamed The Roger Lehecka Double Discovery Center in 2016, it includes courses throughout the year and a Summer Academy that provides " a 5-week academic enrichment program for 9th and 10th grade New York City high school students … " held on Campus."

Giving to Columbia University these days is challenging for many of us, but as Roger stated in an email to DDC supporters at the time that governmental cuts were announced, " ... but ending the Double Discovery grants … hurts children, not the University."

I believe in this program and have supported it for many years. Please join me in supporting the DDC.

Looking forward to your news for the next column.

1985

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So great to hear from lots of you.

Paul Bongiorno "recently received my New York State real estate license in addition to my New Jersey license. It has been a great experience to work on both sides of the Hudson with sellers and buyers. My wife, Francesca BC'86, GSAS'94, is a pre-K teacher in a Jersey City charter school while pursuing a third master's. (She never sits still.)

"Our older son is following his ambition as a comedy writer and performer. He spends most of his time in the East Village, which has a thrilling arts scene. Our younger son graduated from Harvard Law School last year, passed the bar on his first attempt and accepted a position as an associate at a downtown Manhattan law firm.

"Our daughter graduated from SUNY Binghamton last year with a degree in psychology. She plans to continue her studies and has applied for Ph.D. programs on both the east and west coasts.

"My wife and I are Off- (and Off-Off-) Broadway producers, especially in supporting emerging artists and companies."

On June 20, 2024, **Erik Gaull** married his longtime partner, Katherine Goodfellow, at a small family ceremony in Akumal, Mexico. They live in Cabin John, Md. (just outside Washington, D.C.). Erik's son, Ian, became a first-year at UCLA this past September.

This past October, then-Secretary of Commerce Gina M. Raimondo appointed Erik to a three-year term on the First Responder Network (FirstNet) Authority Board. As a "special government employee," with the 14 other members of the board, Erik helps set strategic direction for FirstNet, establish an annual budget addressing operational costs and capital investments, identify geographic and technological areas for investment in and expansion of the National Public Safety Broadband Network, and represent the FirstNet Authority to public safety stakeholders, policymakers and the general public.

Steve Dembitzer sadly reported that our much beloved classmate **Simeon Herskovits** died in February 2025 after an extended illness. "He had been a celebrated environmental lawyer based in Taos, N.M., who had successfully fought to protect water rights in the public interest in the West, especially in Nevada and Utah. Simeon bounced back heroically several times over many years from serious illness and continued to fight to the end for others winning landmark decisions for the people and the protection of the environment," Steve writes. "He will be missed by many and is survived by his wife, Noel, and a wide circle of family, friends and close colleagues and clients."

After retiring in 2017, **Len Genova** decided to pursue his passion for sports. "After completing a master's in sports management at Ohio University in 2020, I decided to pursue a doctorate at the University of Georgia in sport management and policy. As of this spring, I completed my coursework and comprehensive exams and am moving back to New York to complete my dissertation remotely. I remarried last June, to Gemma Vessio of Smithtown, N.Y. I now have three stepchildren (Peter, Alexandra and Michael). My sons, Jerome '14 and Steven, are doing well. Jerome, my older son, is a paralegal at Ropes & Gray in Manhattan and is starting law school in the fall. Steven is a quality control assistant football coach at Rutgers."

After 32 years at the Royal Bank of Scotland, and the last eight years as CEO of the Americas, **Paul Stevelman** retired from the bank, "and I'm now an executive coach. My wife and I live in South Salem, N.Y. She is in fashion design and I grow organic heritage apples as a hobby. Happy to share my cider with alumni!"

Dr. **John Balian** couldn't attend Columbia Reunion 2025, as his oldest son, Raffi, graduated from Tufts University School of Medicine on May 18 and then got married on June 1 in Armenia before he started his residency in mid-June. In addition, "My middle son, Andre '23, is a first-year at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. My youngest son, John Jr., is a junior in college and has been accepted to the Chobanian & Avedissian School of Medicine at Boston University. I run a clinical research organization as CEO of ClinChoice International."

Mike Krumper and his wife, Heather, have lived in Montclair, N.J., for 27 years. Mike writes, "Our daughter Lydia lives in Bushwick, and is cooler than we ever will be. After leaving Columbia I started a career in the music business, which was a hard left away from my pre-med studies, but one that I'm grateful to have made, 40 years in. My company, Missing Piece Group, celebrated its 15th anniversary last year; MPG is a marketing and publicity agency, and a record label. On other fronts, I've been an obsessive CrossFitter for the last 16 years, and have been coaching at a gym nearby for the last few years. A non-athlete for most of my adult life, I got bitten by the fitness bug around 40 and wish it had happened much earlier."

Aaron Freiwald has devoted the last 24-plus years "to the boutique civil trial firm I founded in Philadelphia, handling plaintiffs' side complex civil from business disputes, medical error, product defect and consumer rights. My three kids are grown and doing great, and I'm getting married in September at our country nirvana in northern Vermont. I am also working on a nonfiction book for healthcare consumers on medical error and two novels. Peace and love, friends!"

Aaron Freiwald '85 is getting married in September, at "our country nirvana in northern Vermont. Peace and love, friends!"

Sebastian Sperber LAW'88's second daughter, Sofia PH'25, joined the Columbia family in 2023 when she enrolled at the Mailman School of Public Health. She graduated in May with an M.P.H. and a certificate.

Aaron Gerow SOA'87 was recently named the A. Whitney Griswold Professor of East Asian Languages & Literatures and of Film and Media Studies at Yale. He finished his six-year tenure as chair of EALL this past Spring semester and was looking forward to spending a year in Japan on a well-deserved sabbatical.

In promotion of his new book, *A Convenient Villain: Charles A. Lindbergh's remarkable and controversial legacy preparing the U.S. for war,* a biography of Charles Lindbergh, Dr. **Jonathan Reich** SEAS'86 was on

the American History Gazette podcast, online at bit.ly/42VZN7y. He also spoke at the American Museum of Health and Medicine: bit.ly/3O2iPB8. And he was scheduled to speak at the Mayo Clinic in June. He is interested in classmates' feedback: aconvenientvillain@gmail.com.

And finally, with some truly joyous news, **David Zapolsky** reported, "Our family was joined in March by Zoe Lindsay Zapolsky, born on March 18 to my son Ian '15 and his wife, Sophie Mann '15, so maybe there will be a place for her in the (gulp) Class of '47 : -]."

Congrats!

Stay tuned for a report on our 40th reunion in the Fall 2025 issue!

1986

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Our class is incredibly proud that **Claire Shipman** has been named acting president of Columbia University. Claire is the first Columbia College graduate to be president of the University since Michael Sovern '53, who, fittingly, was president during our years as students. We look forward to seeing Claire guide the University with the intelligence, integrity and excellence that have defined her career.

Here are some highlights from Claire's bio. Read the full text at president.columbia.edu/content/about-acting-president-shipman.

A distinguished journalist, best-selling author and a leading voice for the advancement of women's leadership, Claire earned a B.A. in Russian studies and an M.I.A. from SIPA. She has been a Board of Trustees member since 2013 and was elected co-chair in 2023. Claire has also co-written four *New York Times* bestsellers with the BBC's Katty Kay, and her work on the economic argument for women in leadership and the confidence gap young girls and women often face has driven change in workplaces and schools across the nation.

Before turning to writing, Claire built a career as a leading international and political journalist. She reported for CNN, NBC and ABC, covering some of the world's most transformative events. She spent 15 years as a senior correspondent and substitute anchor for ABC's *Good Morning America*, contributing to shows like *This Week* and *World News Tonight*. She also was a White House correspondent for NBC News, covering presidential policy for *Nightly News* and *Today*.

Congratulations to **Steve Stuart**, who was named a 2025 John Jay Award honoree! He was one of five alumni at this year's dinner, held on March 5 at Cipriani 42nd Street. The event raised $1.1 million for the John Jay National Scholars Program. In his acceptance speech, Steve spoke to the differences between his experience at Columbia in the 1980s and now, saying that for all that has changed, "I am comforted by the fact that Columbia has maintained the Core Curriculum. It's still a place where students will make lifelong friends and experience life in the greatest urban campus in America, in the greatest city in the world."

Steve is a managing director at Fortress Investment Group and is head of new business origination for the Credit and Real Estate team, which he helped start as a partner in 2002. He lives in Rye, N.Y., with his wife, Katrina Froman '88, and has three children: Clare (21), Andrew (20) and Christina (16). He's on the Board of Directors of the Answer the Call - New York Police & Fire Widows' and Children's Benefit Fund and on the Board of Directors of The Mark Messier Foundation.

The evening closed with a performance by the Columbia Kingsmen.

We have political clout in Palm Springs, Calif.: **Jeffrey Bernstein** was elected mayor in 2022. He writes: "I moved to Palm Springs in 2009 and instantly fell in love with this community with a rich history in design and culture. The bulk of my career was in television and cable, working on emerging media distribution (pay-per-view, video-on-demand, streaming, digital, etc.). My husband, Dr. Oscar Chamudes, is a now-retired pediatrician from Chile, and I started a business based on souvenirs that reflected the design aesthetic of the area, Destination PSP. It grew into mid-century modern-inspired home goods, apparel, collectibles and souvenirs. We also worked with more than 15 area nonprofits to use merchandise to brand and market their efforts. As part of that I became very involved with, and a strong advocate for, the small-business community, and the retail experience as a key element of hospitality.

"Between that and working closely with so many nonprofits, I learned just how much local government decisions affect businesses and residents. I spent years getting to know the staff, councilmembers and workings of the city. The business community had long advocated for a member of the community to be on council but no one had time. I finally took the plunge. What I love most is that Palm Springs is a small city in terms of permanent population — less than 50,000. However, we are a world-class destination and resort with our own airport, convention center, 650 city staff, a $200 million general fund budget, and an exploding arts and culture community. Our motto is 'Palm Springs Is Like No Place Else,' and that's 100 percent true. I've moved dozens of times, and finally found my forever home. Mayor is supposed to be a part-time job, but it's full time. I do both my jobs, but it's a lot. I chose to run in part because the city has been very good to me. You learn a lot about true diversity, how government works and the dedication of civil servants. I enjoy it despite the stress."

1987

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Thomas Doherty sent in the following: "I was in New York City this past spring for a reunion with a number of folks from approximately the Classes of 1983–93, all of whom had some connection to the old Delta Phi fraternity on West 113th Street. This also of course included people who were involved with the rugby team, Reality Fest or the apartheid protests. The reunion started as a memorial for **Nathan Flye**, who entered with our class but did not graduate, but now Bill Cohen '88 and Chris Mason '88 are continuing it.

"I live in Portland, Ore., where I work on climate and mental health issues, do some research and train therapists. I'm excited that my first book, *Surviving Climate Anxiety: A Guide to Coping, Healing, and Thriving,* is coming out this fall. It's a guide to the general public on coping with climate change and other environmental issues and being your best self. It brings together a lot I have learned in my career. I also do a podcast on eco and climate emotions, Climate Change and Happiness, along with my colleague Panu, a climate emotions researcher from Finland. We have listeners in about 30 countries."

Diane Hilal Campo VPS'91 writes, "I am a general ophthalmologist in New Jersey, doing a lot of cataract surgery. My oldest daughter, Cynthia '15, BUS'17, lives in Boston and is getting married in September. I started the first ophthalmologist-formulated and ophthalmologist-owned eye beauty line, Twenty/Twenty Beauty, which has all its ingredients and its product design created to be better for the ocular surface; current commercial products are damaging women's eyes and causing dry eyes. My products are vegan, cruelty free and non-irritating, and are more healthful for the ocular surface. People who cannot tolerate other eye makeup brands can tolerate mine. Shoutout to **Gerri Gold**, who connected me with a childhood friend of hers who is now the brand head of my company!"

Macky Alston has a new film out. He writes: "*Acts of Reparation* is doing the circuit and is playing at festivals and events in the Twin Cities; Atlanta; Montgomery, La.; and the Berkshires."

Macky added, "I also have taken the job of executive minister at Middle Church. How's that for a twist? Middle's church in the East Village burned down in 2020 and we moved into one of our restored buildings for Easter. It's a big deal for the community. And **Maurice Russell** sings in the choir!"

In more film news, **W. Murray Sexton** said, "My super short film, *Red Velvet: The roadkill armadillo groom's cake sings the dark understory of* Steel Magnolias, won Best Super Short Film / Winter 2024, Portland MovieMakers Award. I'm working on *The Girl from Empanada.*"

In even more culture news, **Lloyd Lim** released his third collection of short stories, *The Glass Gift and Other Stories,* at the end of February.

Sally Patrone is also rocking the culture scene. She has held art shows in La Jolla and Santa Monica during the past year and mentioned that one of her paintings was even featured in a movie!

In news that takes me back to my London days, **Richard Kramer** wrote, "The company I founded, Arete Research, turned 25 in April; we've had a Harvard B-School case study written about our work and are still expanding. I will see my daughter finish secondary school and I expect to have three kids (including my twin sons) in U.K. universities this autumn. I still get a regular stream of Ultimate teammates visiting London, which I have called home since '91."

Farah Chandu writes: "I took early-ish retirement from teaching and have been filling my time with volunteering, music and a bit of travel. I've had a blast singing with the Gilbert & Sullivan Light Opera Company of Long Island, and I conduct my own choir, Willow. It's great to have the time!"

Diana Moreinis Nasser is now a grandmother with a grandson, and a granddaughter on the way. She is honorary president of the Columbia Alumni Association of Brazil, which was named CAA's International Club of the Year in 2024.

In more grandchild news, **James F. Meschia** wrote, "My wife and I celebrated the birth of our second grandchild, Riley O'Brien, this year as he joined his brother, Cade. I am chair of the Personnel Committee and member of the Executive Operating Team at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Fla. As a vascular neurologist, I am excited to be in the final months of follow up for the NIH-funded multicenter multinational clinical trial of revascularization of carotid atherosclerosis known as CREST-2, which I am leading."

1988

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Steve Cohen BUS'92, LAW'92 wrote, "I am still a partner at Wachtell Lipton and still working hard. I live in New York. **Nina Lazar Burnett** LAW'91 lives in Michigan and recently retired. We each have two kids and the news is that we have reconnected and are now in a book group together that meets monthly by Zoom with about 10 people to talk about an interesting novel.

"I live on the Upper West Side with my wife, my son and my beautiful red Australian Shepherd, Pepper," Steve continued. "My daughter goes to Miss Porter's School in Farmington, Conn. We see her on most of the weekends because we also have a house in Lakeville, Conn. We are going strong."

Nina added, "I am enjoying the lake home we built in southeast Michigan. Lots of nature to explore, which I love. It is great to be reconnected with Steve, sharing thoughts on books, kids and life in general. It takes me right back to our many friendly debates through college and law school."

Happy anniversary to **Jessica Bendinger,** screen writer of the cult classic film *Bring It On*, which turns 25 this August. The film generated "five sequels, several books (and a musical/legal victory)," according to Jessica. It ranked Number 30 on *Entertainment Weekly*'s list of the 50 best high school movies and prompted Roger Ebert to dub it the "*Citizen Kane* of cheerleader movies."

Congratulations to **David Fondiller** SIPA'92 on his recent professional move. "I am thrilled to share that I have started an in-house role at Marsh McLennan, the world's leading professional services firm in the areas of risk, strategy and people," Dave said. "As global internal communications leader, I wear two hats — global head of internal comms for Marsh, MMC's largest subsidiary and the world's leading insurance broker and risk adviser, and member of the corporate Internal Communications Center of Excellence leadership team. The corporate role will involve increasing responsibility for MMC's international IC strategy and execution. I couldn't be more excited!

"I'm particularly looking forward to getting to know and partnering with IC colleagues around the world to provide guidance and mentoring and to ensure that corporate priorities are communicated effectively, reflecting local perspectives. After consulting remotely for the past few years, I'm excited to apply all that I've learned and to return to a bustling office environment at least a few days a week."

Keep the news coming! We look forward to hearing from you.

The global law firm Norton Rose Fulbright has announced the appointment of Gina Shishima '89 to vice-chair of its US Management Committee.

1989

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On March 5, many members of our great Class of '89 gathered to celebrate the career of **John MacPhee,** who was presented a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement for his work on behalf of mental health services for youth as CEO of The Jed Foundation. Among those who came to see John receive his award were, of course, John's wife of nearly 34 years, **Donna MacPhee,** and their daughters, Larissa '18 and Alexa. Also there were **Michael Behringer** and his wife, Nisha Kumar; **Amy Weinreich Rinzler; Jody Collens Fidler; Anne-Marie Wright Lampropoulos; Rebecca Fine; Sam Marchiano; Danielle Maged; Jill Pollack Lewis;** and Janice Jarosz BC'89. Many of John's fraternity brothers turned out, including my husband, David Terry '90, as well as **Paul Radvany, Ed Hamrick, Kaivan Shakib, Victor Mendelson, Ed Ruffo, Tom Yang** and Joe Yaffe '90. Some swore they spotted **Robert Rooney** there, too. I also was excited to catch up with my sorority sisters Lisa Rosen Metsch GS'90 and Lexi Diamond '91.

Those of us who have attended many of these events believe John's speech stood out, as he spoke very personally, and movingly, of overcoming his struggles as a student at the College.

It was also a welcome relief to see our community together, if only for an evening.

And last but not least, the global law firm Norton Rose Fulbright has announced the appointment of **Gina Shishima** to vice-chair of its US Management Committee. Gina will help lead the U.S. legal practice, manage the firm's daily operations and set its strategic direction. Prior to this appointment, Gina was the firm's U.S. chief strategy and operations partner. Gina is based in Texas.

Times have strained us all. Our current perspective of Columbia impacts how we see our past as students and how we see ourselves now as we strive to find our place in our alumni community. As the lens through which we view our institution has been forever altered, many of us have been left feeling alienated, confused, disappointed and angry. What I hear again and again is, "We expected more. We deserved more."

I hope we can continue to regroup and heal at events like the John Jay Awards Dinner, which acknowledges the excellent work and achievements of our fellow alumni.

1990

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You are reading this shortly after attending our 35th reunion or regretting that you couldn't attend, but you'll have to wait until the next issue to hear how great it was.

In the meantime, I heard from many of you! **Aili Whalen** (née Webber) is the planned and major giving director for the Kids Center for Pediatric Therapies in Louisville, Ky. Once a professional-level ballet student, she has now also started a blog, formerdancer.com.

New Mexico native **Warigia Bowman,** whom you might recall has taught at the Universities of Mississippi, Arkansas and Tulsa, is now a full professor at the University of New Mexico School of Law and reports it's great to be back home. She teaches water law, natural resources law, property and administrative law. In February, Rigia took part in a teach-in at the law school, where she explained the legality of executive orders. In 2023 she had a book published — *Digital Development in East Africa: The Distribution, Diffusion, and Governance of Information Technology.*

We have so many professors among us! **Chris Harwood** GSAS'00, based out of Hamilton

Hall, teaches Czech language, literature and cultures as a senior lecturer, and his wife, Katerina, is head of pediatric endocrinology at St. Joseph's Children's Hospital in Paterson, N.J. Older son Jáchym '24 graduated with a biology major and environmental science minor. This year he is working in Prague in the Lab of Adaptive Immunity at the Institute of Molecular Genetics of the Czech Academy of Sciences. Younger son Vincent '27 finished his sophomore year, double majoring in art history and Italian. He is a co-captain of Uptown Local, Columbia's men's Ultimate Frisbee team.

Making their return to NYC after 30-plus years in Atlanta are Kelly and **Jay Myers.** Jay says he has had a wonderful time reconnecting with many, many CU friends, including **Craig Nobert, Lisa Dabney, Pete Hasapis, Brian Kennedy, Dean Temple, Margaret Robison** (née Flynn) and Mike Behringer '89. Kelly and Jay's three adult daughters are easy to visit because they also live in NYC — does it get any better than that?

Carol Guess' newest poetry collection, *Infodemic,* was published in 2024 and is available online at bit.ly/4jTCFNh. Beginning with the memory of a thwarted kidnapping attempt and ending with musings on life after death, Carol engages philosophical questions about spirituality, ethics and politics. *Infodemic* focuses on contemporary queer life during the Covid-19 pandemic and the aftermath of Trump's presidency. Set in Seattle, this solo collection blurs genre boundaries, incorporating prose narratives with lineated poems, capturing the humor and interconnectedness of the author's chosen family.

Making her Class Notes debut is **Isabel Arista Kim,** who told me she was a social worker for four years after graduation and then attended the Boston University School of Law, where she met her husband, Aaron Kim. She then practiced law before taking a career break to stay home with her twin daughters, Ava and Lauren BC'27. Isabel says of Lauren, "It has been a rewarding experience to see Columbia and Barnard through her eyes, even if there has been some turmoil on campus and things look quite different. The enthusiasm and joy for learning is still there, and the school spirit is great. I was finally able to attend my first football game with Lauren, which was a blast, and also attend Homecoming. It was 20-plus years late, but well worth it!"

Jeremy Manning attended the inaugural Columbia AI Summit in March and participated in the workshop "The Columbia Class of 2035: Will We Need To Reinvent Higher Education?" This is good because if everything works out, his 4-year-old son, Isaiah, could be CC'42, following in the footsteps of Jeremy's eldest son and Isaiah's brother, Jeremiah '25. Jeremy is building an AI app (isn't everyone?), so stay tuned for more info or contact him if you are also doing something in the field.

I wonder how many of these CC'25 graduates know that their parents were classmates. **Ron Gualario**'s daughter Alexandra '25 is off to Oxford in the fall to pursue a master's in English literature. His son Ronald will enroll at Amherst this fall and play on the tennis team.

I bumped into **Dave Javdan** in spring 2024 when we accompanied our respective 11th-graders to a college fair. What a delight to hear that his daughter Madison '29 will move onto campus this fall. Dave has been quite busy with charitable pursuits, having recently joined the National Board of Directors of the United States Chamber of Commerce in addition to becoming a David Rockefeller Fellow. Tack on his position as a trustee of his 6-year-old's pre-K–2 school and it's no wonder he and I haven't seen each other in ages.

News from **Jeffrey Berk!** "In January, I spent a week in Bhaktapur, Nepal, working to support Unatti, a girls' shelter. I created a pen pal program that featured a letter, cell phone video and book exchange program involving 35 Unatti girls and 35 children from the United States and other countries. I also accompanied many of the girls on a field trip to purchase books to improve their shelter's library. FIJI, the Fraternity of Phi Gamma Delta (the current fraternity on campus) gifted $250 while more than a dozen FIJI brothers who attended Columbia with me donated more than $2,000. More than $10,000 has been raised since January with the help of many other College (and SEAS and Barnard) graduates."

Any reader who wants to donate can do so online at bit.ly/4iunJ6G.

JENNIFER RUBIN

CC'91 friends Josh Saltman (left), Susie Wood and Evan Schultz got together on Feb. 13 in Bethesda, Md.

On a somber note, **EveAnna Manley** let me know that "while the Eaton Fire spared my 1912 Craftsman home, my life has been consumed by the fire and destruction in Altadena and helping my neighbors through it. I am having a difficult time trying to get caught up to my normal life running my audio manufacturing business, Manley Labs. So yeah, it has been a rough start to the year."

Van, if your Columbia family can help you, let us know how.

I conclude this column with a note from **Mike Hodapp,** a longtime reader, first-time contributor! After graduation he and his wife, Catherine Chin-Chance BC'91, lived in Chicago, Hawaii and Riverdale, N.Y. For the last 10 years, they have lived in Chatham, N.J. They are so proud of their children, Veronica '25 and Jacob '27, SEAS'27.

1991

Susie Wood
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Greetings, Class of 1991. Since taking up this role, I've been delighted to hear from so many of you. Some of you have expressed that you don't feel that you have an update worth sharing, while others are anxious and worried about events at Columbia, in our country and indeed around the world. I hear you! But I have found great joy in reconnecting with classmates, some of whom I had not heard from since graduation. I hope you, too, will gain a sense of renewed connection through these notes.

True to his word, **Justin Kerber** contacted me when he came to Washington, D.C., to attend a conference at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. We met up on a lovely spring-like evening and strolled D.C.'s Wharf. It was great to catch up with Justin and hear all about his family, the conference and his work as a rabbi at Congregation Beth Shalom in Carmel, Ind.

Josh Saltman LAW'94 also reached out when he came to the D.C. area on a family visit. Josh lives with his family in the Los Angeles area and is a lawyer for The Walt Disney Co. **Evan Schultz** and his family joined us for dinner and by the end of the evening, my sides were aching from laughing so hard. See the nearby photo!

Jananne Khuri lives in Manhattan with her family and has been a licensed clinical psychologist specializing in couples for several decades.

Nancy Lopez recently had a mini-reunion with Warigia Bowman '90. Nancy and Warigia are both professors at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. See a photo in this column online at college.columbia.edu/cct!

Connie McVey and her husband, **Mike Socolow,** sent this update from Maine: "Mike and I are finally empty-nesters (we call it 'our next chapter') and loving it. Our two boys

are at Williams and Villanova — one is doing study abroad this year at Oxford and rowing there, too; we had fun visiting him during Thanksgiving. Mike teaches at UMaine and I'm a psychotherapist, but I spend most of my time either tango, salsa or contra dancing, playing ice hockey, swimming, volunteering at the Maine MultiCultural Center helping newly immigrated Spanish-speaking families and protesting (some of you might understand). I'm organizing/enticing my swim teammates to attend our 35th reunion next year and hope to see the rest of you there, too!"

Please keep the updates coming and reach out to me if you are passing through the D.C. area! Stay well!

1992

Olivier Knox
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Classmates, hello!

First, apologies. There's a chance I lost your Class Notes entry. Had some health trouble in January and this column sorta slipped my mind. If you sent something you don't see here, please send it again.

Congratulations to **Robert J. Durham Jr.** and **Victor A. Flores!** Together for three decades, they tied the knot at San Francisco City Hall on Feb. 14. They now use the surname Durham-Flores. See "Just Married!" for a photo!

Robert and Victor have lived in San Francisco since 2000. Sadly, their dependent, an adopted Australian Cattle Dog mix named Hunter, was unable to attend, says Robert.

Victor is a partner at the law firm Baker McKenzie specializing in executive compensation. Robert is senior counsel at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, Division of Enforcement, in the SEC's San Francisco Regional Office.

Clay Arnold chimed in, as well. "All is well with me. My wife, Jeanne, and I live in Rochester, N.Y. We have three kids, two of whom are in college (Fordham and Notre Dame) and one a high school sophomore," he says.

Clay started a job as VP, deputy general counsel for Gannett, the news and media corporation. Before that, he was with Wegmans Food Markets, CooperVision and Bausch & Lomb. "I've very much enjoyed being in-house counsel with some great companies," he writes.

"Outside of family and work, I've grown into a hobbyist photographer. I shoot different styles, but have spent the last five years conquering my 'fear' of portrait/fashion/editorial photography," he says. Clay's work "has been in a few shows, but mostly appears on Instagram (@la_clay_photography_art) or my website (laclayphotography)."

Clay and his wife make it to NYC from time to time, and he has "run into a few folks from Columbia; last person was **Andrew Vladeck.** We had dinner in Queens in summer 2024."

If you have not sent me a life/work/family update, please do! This column can't happen unless you do.

1993

Neil Turitz
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Another update, lots more people angry at Columbia. But we're here for each other, not necessarily for the school, so let's press on with news of classmates. It was an active time with lots of people reaching out, including old friend **Michele Smith,** writing in for the first time to give her own update, as well as to bring news of two classmates.

"On a recent ski trip to Park City, I had the opportunity to reconnect with my first-year besties Kevin Stambaugh '97 and **David Kreeger,** who also happened to be in Utah on a family vacation," she says. "We met for dinner with our spouses and some of our kids and had a lot of laughs. We shared some great memories, including the night we dominated in a three on three game of basketball in Hoops for Hope on College Walk.

David Kreeger '93 (left), Michele Smith '93 and Kevin Stambaugh '97 shared dinner in Salt Lake City on Feb. 3.

Kevin is a father of four (25, 23, 21, 17), works in financial services, and coaches high school football and track. David is a father of two (17 and 15), recently sold three (!) companies and now is a business consultant. I am a mother of two (21 and 19) and am mostly retired from a career as an attorney practicing civil litigation and criminal defense. I now help run equine-facilitated life skills and leadership programs for various groups, including women in recovery, LGBTQ+ teens, victims of domestic violence, neurodivergent young adults and youth in the foster care system. I am happy to report that Kevin and David are the same awesome, salt-of-the-earth humans they were back in our days together in Carman Hall."

Diana Morales-Bories '93 joined Additive Technologies as its general counsel and says, "The startup world is a 180-degree switch for me!"

I can attest to that about Dave, with whom I keep in touch online. Kevin is another old friend who lived across the hall from me on Carman 11 freshman year. Great to hear that the mini-reunion was such a smashing success. See the nearby photo!

Sophomore roommate and regular contributor **Marc Braveman** wrote in, as he often does, to let us all know that he doesn't have much new to report, other than he's living in New Mexico and doing a lot of skiing. This time around, he added that he drives right by the late Gene Hackman's house on the way to the ski area.

Another group of old friends also reached out. **Diana Morales-Bories** informs that the "retirement" she talked about in a previous update was, shall we say, short lived. "After a year of rest, relaxation and travel, I am back to work," she announced. "I joined a high-tech manufacturing startup, Additive Technologies, as its general counsel. The startup world is a 180-degree switch for me, and I am enjoying it very much. Every day is a new adventure!"

Meanwhile, **Tony Apollaro** performed a major mitzvah by meeting up with **Lisa Rutkoske** and **Nkem Okpokwasili** to attend Darrion Sardo's senior night for his high school basketball game. Darrion, the son of **Kathleen Johnson** and our late friend **Mike Sardo,** "shot the lights out, just like his momma, and scored 21 points, 18 of them from three-pointers," Tony says, "leading his team to the win. It was great seeing everyone and supporting Darrion."

Laura Albritton wrote in again to talk about her Magic Kumquat Productions, for which she has promoting her two short nature documentaries, *Devouring Beauties: The Remarkable Pitcherplants* and *A Tortoise Called Pumpkin Spice*, on the film festival circuit. "I'm also working on our new documentary, *Young Fires: The Future of Firelighting*," she says. "Our extended trailer for *Young Fires* was nominated for a 2024 Suncoast Emmy Award, and we're currently filming burns and interviews in multiple Southern states."

Very exciting stuff.

Also sharing exciting news from the creative front is **Lucinda Famous,** who let it be known that she recently published her third

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novel, *Pemberley Beach*, under the pen name Elizabeth Famous. Similarly, **Jennifer Yue** tells us about her upcoming classical piano concert on the afternoon of Sunday, Sept. 21, at The Church of the Good Samaritan, within walking distance of Amtrak's Paoli, Pa., station stop. "Pieces will include Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Grieg, Chopin and Liszt," she says of the concert, which will be open to the public.

Justin Hampton barely beat the deadline for the issue to report, "I'm fine here in Los Angeles, and yes, I survived the fires, along with Lyle Zimskind '90, SOA'03," he says. "I helped a friend and business partner with her panel 'Black Mamas & Maternal Mortality,' which was hosted at the A C Bilbrew Library in late March. Our local supervisor was interested enough that she wants us to do more work on this topic, in her district, so it sounds like it will be the first of many. I am also starting a business around the subject of personal organization, archivism and monetization, but I can wait for another time to discuss that. Hope everyone is well."

Rebecca Shulman wrote, "After a decade-long stint in Peoria, Ill., I moved to Baltimore in 2022," she says. "I have a consulting firm, Museum Questions Consulting, focusing on strategic planning and organizational culture. My son, Alex, is a junior at Stony Brook University, and my daughter, Charlotte, works in the music industry in Los Angeles."

Rebecca expressed an interest in connecting with classmates living in the Baltimore area, or who work in cultural nonprofits, and asked that I share her email address: rebeccashulman2020@gmail.com.

Chris Wiggins is an associate professor of applied mathematics and systems biology at Columbia Engineering, and is also chief data scientist at *The New York Times*. His new interdisciplinary class, "Persuasion at Scale," is taught with CC assistant professor of political science Eunji Kim (college.columbia.edu/news/introducing-persuasion-scale). "The class explores the multifaceted nature of persuasion in the modern world," Chris explains, "bridging political science, communication, journalism, marketing and public health. Think: digital marketing, social media, misinformation campaigns, partisan messaging."

Gabe Wilson said, "I have nothing really to report," then went on to say, "My son is in 11th grade at Lycée Français de New York, so I'm just working part time in an emergency department in rural Texas, while spending a lot of family time on the Upper East Side until he graduates." Gabe also let it be known that **Benjamin Wolff**, a frequent forbes.com contributor, recently published his book, *The Value of Immeasurable Things: Why the Arts — and Artists — Are Essential to the Future of Work.*

And finally, I was lucky enough to get not one, but two visits to my neck of the woods from dear friend

Seraphina Orefice, Doug Feinberg '95 and Brian Orefice '94 attended the NCAA Women's Final Four at Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse in Cleveland on April 5, 2024.

Celebrating at Columbia Reunion on June 1, 2024, were CC'94 friends Robert-Paul Sagner, Janet Balis and Orly Mishan.

Kevin Connolly, who continues to live in Garden City, N.Y., and run Aquaman Pool Services, which only happens to be the best on Long Island. By the time you read this, our fantasy baseball season will have begun, so please root for me to beat him again this year, as I did in 2024.

Let's all hope that the next time we're here, there's better news from alma mater. In the meantime, I wish everyone well and look forward to the next batch of updates. Until then!

1994

Kathryn Hudacek Harlow
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Fond thoughts about our 30th reunion still resonate with **Janet Balis**, who writes, "I wanted to add my appreciation to everyone who was involved in organizing the 30th reunion. It was wonderful to be back on campus and see familiar faces after all these years. I have been back since, teaching a class as adjunct faculty at SIPA! See you all next time!"

At the reunion were friends **Marina Gurin Groothuis, Patty Ahn SEAS'94** and **Christine Parlamis.** They recently *re*convened to indulge in the Upper West Side's finest Indian cuisine under $20 a plate — because nothing says "we've made it" like budget-friendly tikka masala. Somewhere between devouring naan and debating whether chai outranks wine for middle-aged-mom fuel, the trio discussed the true educational gem Columbia had bestowed upon them: no, not career stability, not financial acumen, but yes, the profound ability to have an opinion. They hope to expand their next gathering to fellow NYC classmates because opinions — like meals — are best shared. See a photo in this column online at college.columbia.edu/cct!

Melissa Feldman, who had spent decades as a marketer at companies like Kraft, Mars and PepsiCo, has recently "decided to launch my own brand! My husband, **Ariel Nelson SEAS'94**, BUS'99, is my co-founder. Our business is called Field's Great Nutrition. We believe in feeling your best at every stage of life, and our mission is to help people live healthier and feel stronger. We're committed to providing the highest quality plant-based nutrition made with the finest ingredients and backed by science."

Many of us know the thrills and challenges of breaking a new venture. We wish Melissa and Ariel the best of luck.

Also breaking into ground that needs to be covered is **Monique Couvson** GSAPP'96 (formerly Monique Williams), who was recently featured in *TIME* magazine as a social justice "Closer." She was honored because of her expansive work as the president and CEO of Grantmakers for Girls of Color, a philanthropic intermediary that supports organizations centering on the wisdom of girls and gender-expansive youth of color. According to the *TIME* profile, Monique's presidency has led to the distribution of more

than $26 million to 400 organizations nationwide through "four signature funds — the Black Girl Freedom Fund, the New Songs Rising Initiative for Indigenous girls, the Holding a Sister Initiative for trans girls of color, and the Love Is Healing Fund — *and* she co-founded the #1Billion4BlackGirls campaign."

Congratulations, Monique! What a mission you have dedicated yourself to.

Within the vast ecosystem of co-investors and grantee partners are many organizations led by Columbia alumni, including Justice for Black Girls, founded by Brianna Baker TC'17 and a former G4GC fellow, Talia Sehongva TC'27.

Brian Orefice lives on the North Shore of Chicago in Lake Forest and recently celebrated his 30th anniversary in the sports industry (do the math.) He is VP of product for Stats Perform, a company that merges sports data and AI to service media, teams and betting partners around the world. Brian shares, "I was granted a patent last year for 'methods and systems for utilizing live embedded tracking data within a live sports video stream,' which makes me sound a lot smarter than I am." In addition to overseeing the company's product portfolio and content partnerships, Brian manages its Football Championship Subdivision college football initiative — a cause close to his heart as a Columbia alum — handing out awards with the likes of Walter Payton, Jerry Rice and Eddie Robinson.

"In my spare time, I play the role of 'Sports Dad,'" Brian adds, "coaching youth sports while fostering my 11-year-old daughter Seraphina's inevitable climb to the WNBA and my 10-year-old son Everett's journey toward an MLB career. I keep in daily contact with Doug Feinberg '95, who is too modest to admit he's become the country's leading authority on women's basketball at The Associated Press. My daughter and I meet him every year at the women's Final Four, among other places. This year's highlight in Miami: We'll be witnessing Doug being inducted into the Class of 2025 of the US Basketball Writers Association Hall of Fame! I'll also be joined by **Stephanie Geosits** and Doug's brother Jeremy Feinberg '92, LAW'95." See the nearby photo!

Between seeing patients, teaching at Stanford Medicine and researching infectious diseases at his laboratory, **Paul Bollyky** is undertaking a job that draws upon his liberal arts credentials. He is translating the memoirs of Dr. Kalman Istok: 900 pages of single-spaced, typed Hungarian prose. It tells his story as a Hungarian obstetrician who got drafted into the German Army as a field surgeon in WWII, became a doctor in a refugee camp for displaced Jews and then became a refugee himself in America together with his family. That family, along with the aptitude toward medicine has indeed flourished and carries forth in talented doctors, like with his grandson, one Paul Bollyky.

1995

Janet Lorin
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Congratulations to **Tova Mirvis** SOA'98 on the publication of her latest novel, the murder mystery *We Would Never*. It's about a close-knit Florida family who, in the wake of their daughter's divorce, might — or might not — have done something unimaginable.

"The book was inspired by a true crime story that, through the years, I've been unable to stop thinking about, trying to understand how these events could have happened — how do families become unmoored?" she wrote in an email to announce the book. Tova is the author of a memoir, *The Book of Separation,* as well as three other novels, *Visible City, The Outside World* and *The Ladies Auxiliary.*

Tova spent a few months earlier in the year on a book tour to promote the new book and will do another round in the fall. She's also working on a new novel that will center around her southern-Jewish family history.

Adlar Garcia returned to Morningside Heights from Florida to be associate dean for Columbia College alumni relations and engagement.

"Just a few months into my role, I'm truly enjoying the experience," Adlar writes. "It's been incredibly rewarding to engage with our alumni community, strengthen connections and reconnect with classmates. Every day brings new opportunities to collaborate, celebrate alumni achievements and have a lasting impact. I'm excited for what's ahead! Go Lions!"

1996

Ana Salper
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Happy summer, classmates!

Let me begin by apologizing for the hiatus our column took in the Winter/Spring 2025 issue. My beloved mother, Roberta Salper, passed away in October and I was not capable of pulling together the notes in time. Many of you who know me well, and especially those of you who spent time with my mother, know that my mother was a dynamic, vibrant intellectual, and magnetic to be around. She was a socialist-feminist activist — a true Renaissance woman with a spirit of defiance — who in 1970 co-founded the first women's studies program in the country, at San Diego State, and spent her life dedicated to feminist and other leftist causes, while raising me on her own. She wrote an important memoir, *Domestic Subversive: A Feminist's Take on the Left, 1960–1976,* while a Resident Fellow at Brandeis' Women's Studies Research Center. My mother was my rock, my biggest champion, my unwavering source of strength and my inspiration; she mastered the art of motherhood, and she was my best friend. I miss her terribly, and the world seems much quieter without her in it. I felt I should honor her with a few words here. May she rest in power.

On to news of classmates. Best-selling author and Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporter **Jodi Kantor** delivered the keynote address at the College's Class Day on May 20, honoring the achievements of the graduating Class of 2025. Among her many other accomplishments and professional pursuits, Jodi is also a creative adviser to the new M.F.A. in Creative Writing program at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Rose Kob joined the Board of Directors of the nonprofit Power of Two. Rose writes: "Being on the PO2 board makes me so happy, especially during such a dark time — our work touches many things that are important to me. We are based in New York City, the city I was dying to move to as a Long Island teen and am still thrilled to call home. We work with caretakers and kids, like I first did at Columbia as a volunteer at Community Impact. And our program is backed by solid evidence, just like we do at my day job as a lawyer at a social policy research organization. Power of Two is strengths-based — the organization supports parents and caregivers of young kids through one-on-one coaching in their homes, and the evidence shows that it makes a huge difference in the lives of children in their first 1,000 days. It's so joyful to work with a local program focused on encouraging and supporting kids and their grown-ups."

Moha Desai asked me to dare you all to start planning for our 30th (!) reunion and make it the largest one yet. She writes: "Mark it on your calendars, and no excuses! I am nearing the 10-year anniversary of my consulting practice, empowering healthcare organizations to achieve growth at any stage of their journey. While I am based in Boston (visit me, like **Patricia Merino** did!), I have had clients all over. It has been hard in this climate to keep telling healthcare clients to keep calm and carry on … I was never destined to run [for office] but I encourage one of the many amazing political leaders from our class to do so! You have my vote!"

Bich-Nga Nguyen writes: "I am contentedly educating clients about estate planning strategies in my Big-Finance role, and the switch has left more time for me to volunteer with a few mentoring programs, including the College's Odyssey Mentor-

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ing Program (college.columbia.edu/alumni/odyssey-mentoring)!"

My dear friend **Barbara Antonucci,** who is the managing partner of the San Francisco office of the law firm Constangy, Brooks, Smith & Prophete, is over the moon that her daughter, Giada Mercer '29, will start at the College in the fall. I had a fun conversation recently with both Barbara and Giada to discuss housing options for first-years. Who knew that I would be nostalgic for those oh-so-terrible cinderblock walls of Carman? I also had a great time reuniting with Barbara, **Mirella Cheeseman** and **Julie Satow** last fall to celebrate all of our 50th birthdays at Sartiano's, a fabulous restaurant in Soho owned by our friend Scott Sartiano '97.

That's it for now. Have a great summer, and please send in more notes for our next column! I leave you with this:

"My wish for you is that you continue. Continue to be who you are, to astonish a mean world with your acts of kindness."

— Maya Angelou

1997

Kerensa Harrell
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I hope that you are all having a fabulously fun summer. It is my pleasure to present the following updates from our class.

CC'97 rabbis Jason Klein, Rachel Goldenberg and Jill Jacobs at T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights, held at the Society for the Advancement of Judaism in NYC on Feb. 24.

Rabbis **Rachel Goldenberg, Jill Jacobs** and **Jason Klein** had a mini class reunion on Feb. 24 when they were all together (in their own city) at a convening of T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights, which focused on defending democracy and human rights. Rachel is the founder of Malkhut, a progressive Jewish spiritual community in Western Queens. Jill has been CEO of T'ruah since 2011, and Jason began serving as the senior rabbi of Congregation Beit Simchat Torah in 2024. See the nearby photo!

Dr. **Ross Zeltser** writes: "As an ashamed and outraged alumnus, I look forward to the current U.S. administration holding Columbia responsible for [what I consider to be] its fecklessness, arrogance and ingrained antisemitism. It won't be easy, but this once-great university might rise from its poisoned ashes again."

Dr. **Rebekah Gee** shares that her healthcare company, Nest Health, was recognized as one of 2025's 15 most innovative companies moving the needle in healthcare by *Fast Company.*

Nancy Schwartzman reports that in March she and **Mauricio Mena** had a huge birthday bash with tons of other CC'97 alumni in Mexico City. She says she'll give us the full details in the next issue, so stay tuned for that.

Michelle Salcedo is a Sundance Institute directing fellow for a second consecutive year. She directed two films that are premiering this year: the action feature film *Switch and Bait,* written by Russell Gewirtz; and *Bye Bye Barbarito,* for Netflix, written by Susannah Drissi. Both were co-produced by Lindsay Torrey '01. See the nearby photo!

Lindsay Torrey '01 (left) and Michelle Salcedo '97 working at a film shoot in Belgrade, Serbia, on Sept. 17, 2023.

Erik Flatmo recently joined the Department of Theatre & Dance at the University of South Carolina as an assistant professor of set design. Last year, he was a visiting professor at the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts at Arizona State University. He is currently a production designer on his first feature film. This September, a production that he designed in 2022 for Schauspielhaus Zürich will be presented for two weeks at the Park Avenue Armory in New York City.

As for me, **Kerensa Harrell,** as I wrap up this column it is currently mid-March, and we have been enjoying the loveliest winter weather in Florida. My daughter's Girl Scout troop had a lot of fun outdoor activities throughout the fall and winter — visiting pumpkin patches, going on hay rides, finding their way through corn mazes, feeding horses and cows by hand, enjoying group bicycle rides, having ice cream socials and pizza parties, marching in parades, selling cookies and earning badges and fun patches for their Brownie uniforms. We now have 10 girls (all second graders) in our troop, and I am their troop leader. I also work part time at my daughter's school and really enjoy being there, as well as taking her to all her extracurricular private lessons in French, aerial silks and piano. At school she's in a dual-language immersion program; math and social studies are taught in the target foreign language (Spanish) alongside English, with the goal of attaining fluency in the target foreign language by the end of elementary school. She also takes a weekly hip-hop group dance class; they are rehearsing for a recital.

As I sign off I will cue the song "Summer Wind" by Frank Sinatra, as it will be summertime by the time you are reading this. One thing I miss about no longer living in NYC is that I don't get to hear jazz standards when I'm out and about.

I hope that classmates are all faring well, and please write with your updates. We would love to hear from you, even if it is just to say hello!

In lumine Tuo videbimus lumen.

1998

Sandie Angulo Chen
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Happy summer, Class of 1998! It's another short Class Notes column this time. We congratulate classmates with children who graduated from high school and college this spring and encourage anyone who has a student heading to Columbia or Barnard to let us know!

Erica Siegel GSAS'10 sent in her first update in while. After graduation, she worked for an international nonprofit but returned to Columbia to complete a Ph.D. in Russian literature. She taught Lit Hum for a joyous stint before moving to a posi-

tion as assistant dean at Columbia's James H. and Christine Turk Berick Center for Student Advising (which did not exist when we were there). Since 2022 Erica has been associate dean for academic assistance and junior class dean at Barnard.

Congratulations, Dean Siegel!

1999

Lauren Gershell
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Hello, Class of '99! I hope everyone is doing well. I am thrilled to have the following updates from classmates and look forward to hearing from more of you in the coming months for future issues.

Daniel Alarcón, an associate professor at the Journalism School, won iHeart's 2025 Innovator Award for his series The Good Whale (nominated for iHeart's Podcast of the Year), which dives into the story of Keiko, the orca who starred in the 1993 film *Free Willy,* and his journey back to the wild.

Congratulations!

Kamryn Eddy is a clinical psychologist who specializes in eating disorders. She was recently promoted to full professor at Harvard Medical School and co-directs the Eating Disorders Clinical and Research Program at Massachusetts General Hospital. She lives in the Boston area with her wife and their two boys and was excited to show her children Columbia's campus when the family visited New York City during a particularly chilly week earlier this year.

Jonathan "JD" Friedman writes, "After spending three years as the team clinical sport psychologist for the New Jersey Devils of the National Hockey League, I recently relocated to Bonita Springs, Fla., where I joined the Lee Physician Group at Lee Health as a clinical sport psychologist primarily focused on adolescent and young adult athletes. I also run a private telehealth practice inclusive of clients from New Jersey and a variety of other states."

Dr. **Angelina Lipman** is a psychologist, educator, author and the founder of Blocking the Noise, a program for accessible wellness. Angelina has spent more than a decade in academia with a research focus on the impact of identity on psychological well-being, achievement and relationships, and Blocking the Noise is the culmination of that work. Angelina explains, "It is intended to help anyone, anywhere, at any time navigate life's obstacles and live their best life. With humor, relatable anecdotes, simple exercises and attainable goals, Blocking the Noise provides each reader with the roadmap to stop enduring and start enjoying each and every day."

Angelina resides in Westchester County, N.Y., with her husband, three children and many pets.

2000

Kavita Shah Bafana
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Thanks to those who sent in updates; always a pleasure to hear what classmates are up to across the country and beyond.

Evan Hutchison stepped into the political arena last year, running in New York's 10th Congressional District on a ceasefire in Gaza platform in the June 2024 Democratic primary. Though outspent nearly 50:1 and campaigning for just 100 days, Evan earned 23 percent of the vote. He's already filed to run again in 2026. You can learn more at votehutch.nyc or on Instagram @votehutch.nyc.

Eugene Myers is celebrating the publication of his 11th and 12th novels for middle-grade readers this spring: *The Stream Team: Battle Squad* (co-written with popular Fortnite streamer Nick Eh 30) and *Gamers: Attempting Connection.* Both books target kids ages 8–12 who are into video games and digital storytelling. Eugene recently relocated back to New York City with his wife and children (10 and 2) and would love to reconnect with anyone in the area.

Rhonda Henderson shares two exciting updates. First, she and her collaborator received a 2024 grant from HumanitiesDC and the DC Oral History Collaborative for "'91, We in a Dope Jam," a collection of oral histories focused on Washington, D.C.'s go-go music scene during a pivotal cultural moment. These stories will be preserved in the Go-Go Archives at the DC Public Library and reflect Rhonda's ongoing work through The Dap Project, a collective amplifying the voices of native Washingtonians. Rhonda also co-presented a session on leadership and creativity at the State of Black Educators Symposium InDepth Conference in St. Louis, where she explored how storytelling, poetry and singing can enrich leadership practices in education.

Jasmine Hyman has spent her career working on climate finance and sustainability. She leads Amazon's Right Now Climate Fund, a $100 million conservation fund that supports community-driven and nature-based environmental projects around the world. Recently, she has focused on Asia, including a plastic cleanup project in the Mumbai Basin that removes 150 tons of plastic from one of the region's most polluted creeks while supporting coastal communities and protecting local wildlife, including flamingos.

Earlier in her career, Jasmine co-founded Gold Standard, a certification that ensures carbon credits deliver measurable environmental and social benefits. She also worked with UN agencies and consulted for public climate finance institutions, helping to design projects that support climate adaptation and mitigation. She earned a Ph.D. from Yale, where she researched the variables that make climate finance effective at the local level.

Jasmine lives in London with her wife, Flavia, and their sons, Luca and Zeno, as well as their dog, Bacchus, and bearded dragon, Momotaro.

More updates are always welcome — send your news my way and stay connected!

2001

Jonathan Gordin
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Hi everyone. Columbia has been on my mind a lot, and I've been thinking about the great memories I have of our collective time there. Here's an update on where some of us are now:

Jonathan Lemire was promoted to co-host of MSNBC's long-running flagship show, *Morning Joe.* He is also now a contributing writer at *The Atlantic,* focusing on the White House and national politics.

Congratulations to Jon!

My wife, Jamie Rubin BC'01, recently attended the bat mitzvah of **Dina Epstein** and Eitan Levisohn's daughter Talya in Washington, D.C. Jamie traveled with **Annie Lainer Marquit,** and they had a wonderful time reminiscing. Other alums in attendance included **Rebecca Mermelstein,** Rebecca Cole Lurie BC'01, Adam Lurie SEAS'02, Sara Dauber '99, Andrew Dauber '00, Nate Lesser SEAS'00, Chani Bloom BC'00, Perry Smith '98, Avi Weisberg '00, David Gillers '00, Sarah Morgan Feith BC'09, David Feith '09, Hannah Stanhill BC'20, Mira Kogen Resnick GS'05, Ilana Waxman BC'05, Justin Rubin '02, Jess

Longtime friends (left to right) Rebecca Cole Lurie BC'01, Adam Lurie SEAS'02, Jamie Rubin BC'01, Annie Lainer Marquit '01 and Dina Epstein '01 celebrated Epstein's daughter's bat mitzvah on March 8.

Levi BC'06, Ben Adler '97, Shaanan Meyerstein '05, Dena Roth BC'06 and Rivka Friedman BC'05. See the nearby photo!

Please reach out with updates for classmates. I know they'd love to hear from you.

2002

Sonia Hiradaramani
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Hi, Class of 2002! At the 2025 Golden Globes, **Justin Marks** and Jonathan van Tulleken SOA'10 won Best Television Series - Drama for *Shōgun*.

James Hudspeth is vice-chair for clinical affairs for the Department of Medicine at Boston University.

Olga Khodosh BUS'07 lives in New York with her family and heads the Ratings Advisory function at TD Securities.

Share your news and updates for a future issue!

2003

Michael J. Novielli
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No news this time. Please share an update for a future issue!

2004

Jaydip Mahida
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I hope everyone is having a great summer.

David Keck, in Cambridge, Vt., writes, "Still farming grapes in northern Vermont and making wine under our Stella14 label. We planted another 4.5 acres last year and look forward to expanding! Perhaps not the easiest place to make wine, but it keeps us on our toes ... ."

And **Nuria Net** JRN'11 writes, "After a stint in Barcelona, I am in Madrid. I am a journalist and podcast producer. I also recently launched Las Cosmos, a platform and community for Latinos in Spain and Europe. Would love to meet with other alums who live here or pass through!"

That's all for this issue. Please continue to send in updates, as we want to hear from as many folks as possible. Career and family updates are always great, but please reach out to share anecdotes, memories or any other fun news! You can send updates via email or the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2005

Sallie Touma
sallie@sallietutor.com

Hi Class of 2005!

We have some interesting news. **Matt Holden** shares, "This past January, I got married to Jessica Baker, and we live in Alexandria, Va., with our extremely energetic dog, Clovis. I'm a commander in the Navy and am wrapping up a tour at U.S. Cyber Command, where I've served as the deputy director of intelligence at the Joint Force Headquarters–Department of Defense Information Network. Our mission is to secure, operate and defend DoD networks globally, and I was honored to be recognized as Field Grade Officer of the Year during my time there. In April, I began my next tour, on the staff of the *Harry S. Truman* Carrier Strike Group out of Norfolk, Va."

We have two writers in our class: **Joanna Dee** GSAS'14 writes, "I'm an associate professor at Washington University in St. Louis, married to **Koushik Das** VPS'09 and have a book coming out in November: *Faith, Family, and Flag: Branson Entertainment and the Idea of America.* Not much info is available yet but you can visit bit.ly/4cDEDOW or joannadeedas.com."

Elizabeth Dwoskin JRN'09 shares, "I'm a writer at *The Washington Post,* covering the intersection of tech, culture and politics. I have two little boys and live in Oakland, Calif."

Also from California, **Tanya Franklin** shares, "I welcomed my second daughter into the world in November and in December started my second term on the Los Angeles Unified School District board, the largest elected school board in the country (NYC's is appointed). I'm back from maternity leave and am finding the joy and humor in trying to do it all."

I rebranded my math tutoring company — it's now Elite Math Scholars. I tutor kindergarten through college calculus II with personalized, customized lessons. I also tutor the SAT math and verbal sections. I'm a college math professor and won a SUNY Chancellor's Award for my teaching!

MORENCY STUDIOS

Gabrielle Lewis '19 (left) and Emily Hawkins '06 at the Black Alumni Council Heritage Awards Ceremony, at which Hawkins was honored, on Feb. 27 at Loft39 in NYC.

2006

Andrew Stinger
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As I tap away at my keyboard from Brooklyn, I find myself taking a moment to acknowledge the challenges many have shared with me in recent months, and to send all of you my utmost respect and support, along with an invitation to share your thoughts with me beyond the *CCT* Class Notes cadence. My inbox is always open! While our time on campus shaped us nearly two decades ago, it's inspiring to see how each of you continues to have an impact on the world from Morningside Heights and beyond. With gratitude, I share these exciting updates from our Class of 2006.

Maiya Edelson (née Chard-Yaron) and her husband, Jerry Edelson, welcomed a son, Joel Natan Edelson, on Nov. 26. Joel joins sister Ariella Sivan (3). The Edelson family resides in San Antonio, where Jerry is stationed with the Army as a physician, and Maiya works remotely as a VP for Hillel International.

Emily Grammer (née Reeves) brought her kids from Nashville to visit campus during Spring Break. She was looking forward to celebrating her 40th birthday on March 21 with **Amanda Baudier** (née Smear) and **Zack Packer.**

After four years serving in the Biden-Harris administration at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and the Department of Justice, **Emily Ross** SIPA'12 started a role in January as deputy chief of staff at Democracy Forward, which focuses on advancing democracy and social progress through litigation, policy and public education, and regulatory engagement.

In February, Columbia's Black Alumni Council honored **Emily Hawkins** with the 2025 Heritage Award Rising Star for her visionary leadership as founder and CEO of The Black Tech Collective. Under her leadership, the organization has been cultivating inclusive spaces where underrepresented tech professionals can connect, thrive and achieve their highest aspirations. See the nearby photo!

Justin Ifill invites classmates to join him on one of the many restoring yoga retreats he will be hosting. Destinations will include Puerto Rico, Mexico and India — a perfect opportunity to recharge and find balance.

After marrying Rory Evans in 2019, **Fausto Jiménez-Evans** relocated in 2023 from New York City to Milwaukee, where he is chief of staff at Rocketship Public Schools in Wisconsin. Passionate about expanding educational access,

Fausto oversees family engagement, board governance, compliance and legal matters. In the last two years, he's helped secure a $2.5 million grant for social workers and led interventions that reversed declining attendance. Fausto also co-hosts, alongside Edward Rueda '05 and two other colleagues, Rediscovering Latinidad, a podcast exploring genealogy, identity and family history. Fausto also is on the Board Directors of Studio K Flamenco.

Claire Gibson has joined Day Pitney as counsel in its Intellectual Property and Technology practice group in the New York office. She focuses on advising and representing clients in developing and protecting their global trademark portfolios. Her practice also includes advising clients on copyright and domain issues, licensing and other IP transactions, as well as providing IP due diligence in corporate transactions.

That's all for now — please keep the updates coming! Looking forward to hearing more from our incredible class.

2007

David Donner Chait
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Hope you're all doing well, and a big thank you to those who shared updates with the class!

Maria Chavez Santos decided to pursue her dream of living in California and took a cross-country road trip from NYC to San Diego in spring 2024. She is an active member of Encinitas Run Club and is a family physician at TrueCare, providing primary care for the community of Carlsbad. She and her dogs are embracing the beach life, and loving every minute of it!

Eric Bondarsky shares, "On a recent chilly Saturday afternoon, I found myself sharing some Hudson Whiskey and traditional meat stew with Hillel Parness '93, LAW'95 and Daniel Friedman '97, BUS'01, LAW'01. The food, beverages and company all warmed the soul."

After 35 years in NYC, **Kasia Nikhamina** and her husband, Ilya, bought a cozy little house on a quiet tree-lined street in Bloomfield, N.J. They love bird-watching with their cat, Mina Bobina, and are looking forward to planting a garden of native flowers and grasses, and hosting barbecues.

Kasia's short story about her late friend **Havilah Giannetta** was published on The Keepthings. She continues to write Divinity School on Substack while she works on her first novel. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct, for more on Giannetta.]

SUBMIT A CLASS NOTES PHOTO

- Photos must feature at least two College alumni.
- All photos must be submitted using the online webform **college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.**
- Photos that do not meet the size parameters for print will run online.

2008

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

[Editor's note: *CCT* thanks **Bradley Blackburn** for his three years of service as class correspondent. This is his last column. If you are interested in taking on this role, please write to cct@columbia.edu with the subject line "CC'08 class correspondent." In the meantime, please send your updates to *CCT* through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.]

Mark Clemente writes from New York: "After living in Singapore for eight years, I've moved back to NYC. I work for Dwight Global Online School as head of partnerships, focusing on sports/tennis."

Eli Goldfarb writes from Washington, D.C. [that what he sees as] "Columbia's disgraceful treatment of Mahmoud Khalil SIPA'24 and other pro-Palestine activists makes me ashamed to be associated with such a morally bankrupt institution."

Jehangir Jejeebhoy shares from Mumbai, India, that he married Naira Sam Variava LAW'10 in 2012 and that they have three wonderful daughters. Jehangir has an independent practice as an arguing counsel before the Bombay High Court and in arbitration matters. Outside of his practice and time with family, Jehangir enjoys playing golf and squash, and more recently padel.

Helen Juden and her husband welcomed their first child last summer. Grandparents Roger Sherwood SW'81 and Diane Sherwood SW'79 are elated. Helen has been gathering parenting advice from **Blakely Fairbanks** (née Low) regularly.

Farah Mohammed earned an M.B.A. at the University of Otago in March after spending the last year in Dunedin, South Island, New Zealand. She is now set to enter the Miss Universe Trinidad and Tobago pageant. Farah has also started playing golf and says she is loving it!

David Willis lives in Lisbon, where he is exploring Portuguese contemporary art and the art director of a new card game, Manacaster. He recently curated his first art exhibition in Lisbon, which featured 50 artists, young and old, local and international, famous and unknown, in his apartment on Rua de São Bento. David is moving soon to Santarém, one hour north of Lisbon, to prepare for the launch of Manacaster. His personal Instagram is @dave.not.here.art and his gaming Instagram is @manacaster_game.

2009

Jonathan Berliner
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The Class of 2009 is living like it's the Class of 2019. With barely a week before my deadline and wall-to-wall unflattering media coverage of Columbia, we are getting married, fulfilling careers, growing our families, couch-surfing and breaking bread with each other, all while advocating for what we feel is best for Columbia.

During a recent trip from Washington, D.C., to NYC, I knocked on the door of Eric Bondarsky '07 and Nina Cohen BC'09, who also hosted Sarah Brafman '10 for dinner. Down the road, I stopped to see Oren Benzaquen '11 and Emily Berkower BC'12 to check out their new house. After dinner, I walked to **Dana Newborn** and **C. Zachary Rosenberg**'s for great catching up and homemade pastries. The following night, I met Columbia physics faculty Szabolcs and Zsuzsa Márka during a traffic snarl at Newark Liberty International Airport and caught up about the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory, AI and whether my family needs a bigger and newer car. The next day, we joined **Mindy Hecht** (née Feldman) at the American Museum of Natural History. Our children report that the butterflies are scary; camouflage works.

First love, then marriage. **Philippe Fossaert** got married last August to Tatiana Navarro. He is heading the operation of Mercado Libre Ecuador and also ventured with his family into the security and defense industry, including armoring and the fabrication and maintenance of tactical military vehicles in both Colombia and Ecuador. **Nathaniel Howland** married the love of his life, Luisa Pinzón, whom he met while working in Colombia for Tushar Khandelwal SEAS'10. **Alexios Shaw** joined in congratulating them. See "Just Married!" for a photo.

Baby carriage, next. **Emily Glass** and **Steven Thomas SEAS'09** welcomed their second daughter, Phoebe, last year, joining sister Lily (4) and their first child/dog, Ranger Rick. Emily and Steve married in 2017 and have lived in the Boston area for the last 10 years. Emily works at MIT in education design and innovation, and Steve is a software engineer at a local CT scanner startup, Lumafield. **Hannah Hager Phenicie** welcomed a joyful baby girl, Zoe, and celebrated 13 years of marriage with her husband. She earned a USC M.F.A. in film production. Hannah is restoring the historic Victorian neighborhood her family built in Appalachia. She never gives up: "Writing while I can."

Work hard. **Grace Park** (née Kim) reconnected with alumni at the Columbia University Club of Fairfield County. They hosted the senior vice dean of the Climate School, Jeffrey Shaman, who spoke on the school's fantastic work. Grace co-authored a book with a high school student in her town (Longmeadow, Mass.), who will join the Class of 2029 this fall! *The Realm of Whispers* is an urban fantasy about the power of maintaining concentration in the

BEATRICE LEE '09

Raymond Lim '09, Andrea Chan SEAS'09 and Beatrice Lee '09 had an NYC meetup at Tous les Jours on July 5, 2024.

midst of digital distractions. It was released last fall and is independently published. Grace's motivation for writing and consulting is to empower individuals and organizations to be more intentional about their technology use. Grace and I shared terrific ideas over the phone.

Rachel Lindsay is busy with comics and cartooning. Her second book, *Astral Visits,* which debuted at Small Press Expo in 2024, is for sale at Desert Island and Forbidden Planet in NYC, as well as at Partners and Son in Philadelphia, and has been purchased by CC'09 alums via social platforms. The power of reconnection at this juncture in careers and life is strong. Through this work, Rachel is pleased to learn more about what other alums are doing and how we can work together with passion and purpose. Rachel reconnected with architect **Mary Catherine Bullock** is advancing the design of spaces in hospitals, which dovetails well with Rachel's advocacy for patient rights and clinical ethics. Please reach out if you are interested in collaborating!

Daniel Duzdevich, a sapiens expert, is back in Chicago researching the origin of life after a year at the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies in Germany as a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow of the EU. Daniel writes, "It was one of the best years of my life, intellectually." He's now trying to navigate the extremely challenging landscape of science funding in an unfriendly political climate. Daniel is looking for 2009ers: "I'm relatively new to Chi-town; alumni in the area, please say 'Hi!'"

Play hard. **Jessica Montesano** is flying from Munich, where she relocated seven years ago, to Berkeley, to meet **Downing Bray** and **Stephanie Odenheimer,** now in Los Angeles. Jessica reports, "Very much looking forward to it! Otherwise, all is well. I'm very happy living in Germany, especially these days." *CCT* expects photos.

Facing a last-minute NYC hotel error, **Raymond Lim** reached out to random Columbians for an emergency couch. He reconnected with fellow JJ5 floormate **Beatrice Lee** after 15 years! Beatrice and Raymond celebrated with a 5:00 a.m. TMPL gym session and dinner with **Andrea Chan SEAS'09.** See the nearby photo, and another in this column online at college.columbia.edu/cct!

Don't you love it when a Shabbat plan comes together? **Diane Kolatch** hosted Daniel Bendavid SEAS'10 and Yael Steiner BC'09 for Shabbat lunch in White Plains. **Michael Emerson** and Adina Bitton BC'08 enjoyed a delightful Shabbat lunch in Tzur Hadassah with their neighbors Cary Krimsky SEAS'87 and Julie Krimsky BC'86 (née Rosenfeld). Michael writes, "Always fun to discover Columbia connections close to home!"

Dana Newborn joined **Marshall Fox SEAS'09** for Shabbat and met with **Shuli Shinnar** on a separate Shabbat. For **Michael Rand**'s 40th birthday, they joined Michael's wife, Elana Rand '10 (née Riback), Zachary Lebwohl GS'10, Jacqueline Gerber GS'09 (née Lebwohl), **Roy Feldman** and Sandy Berkowitz BC'10 (née Susser). **Alan Feder** attended remotely. Dana also met up with Rajesh Ramakrishnan SEAS'08. Dana keeps up with **Maria Insalaco,** now in D.C. Go to this column online at college.columbia.edu/cct to see a photo!

Elizabeth Berger, another sapiens expert, writes: "I am appalled at the University's recent actions. Just in the last two weeks [as I write]: It has offered no help for Mahmoud Khalil SIPA'24 after his detention by ICE. Fulbright fellow Ranjani Srinivasan GSAPP'23 fled to Canada to avoid a similar fate. Columbia revoked the degrees of [some] student protestors. The dean of the Journalism School told foreign students to censor themselves because 'Nobody can protect you.' I feel that the University is capitulating to growing authoritarianism in our country. I call on other alumni to hold the University accountable for its actions."

If you are affected by federal government upheaval, feel free to reach out to me to be paired up with a job lead or mentor for resumes and interviews.

Also, stay tuned for a class group on LinkedIn and other social media.

2010

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

No news to share this time! Have a great rest of the summer, then please share what you did, and any other updates, with *CCT* and your classmates through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2011

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

[Editor's note: *CCT* thanks **Nuriel Moghavem** and **Sean Udell** for their 10-plus years of service as class correspondents. Starting with the Fall 2025 issue, **April Simpson** will take on this role. Please share your news with her via the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.]

Greetings, 2011. Another round of exciting updates, this edition with a uniquely international bent, reflecting the achievements of our classmates spanning the world.

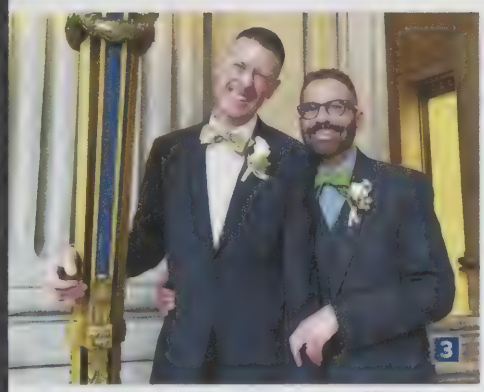
Sam Laskey wrote the satirical horror movie *Ick,* which had its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival and its U.S. premiere at Fantastic Fest, and received positive reviews from *Variety, The Globe and Mail, The Daily Beast* and *The Ringer.* In other news, Sam and his wife, Becky Gimple BC'11, are trudging through the bureaucratic morass and trying to adopt their 2-year-old foster daughter, whom they have raised since birth. Sam is not allowed to share photos before the adoption, but be assured that she is a perfect, beautiful princess.

Adina Levin co-leads "Who By Tech? Antisemitism in the Age of AI," an educational project on racist conspiracies, how they fester on- and offline and what to do about it. She also completed a master's in urban studies from the Autonomous University in Barcelona and helped launch Urban Mobility Explained from the European Institute of Innovation and Technology. It's been seven years since Adina moved from Manhattan to Barcelona, where she's enjoyed meeting up with countless Columbia friends, in addition to more get-togethers in her hometown of Chicago. Since last December, she and her husband, Ismael ("Isma"), have been taking care of their son, Aleix (a Catalan name pronounced "ah-LEYSH").

Vicky Du's debut feature documentary, *Light of the Setting Sun,* had its New York City theatrical release at DCTV's Firehouse Cinema April 18–24. In the fall, the film will broadcast and stream on PBS. It's a personal documentary about the cycles of violence that have persisted in her family from the Chinese Communist Revolution of 1949 to the present — from China, to Taiwan, and ultimately to the United States. The film won the Grand Jury Prize at San Diego Asian Film Festival and has screened at film festivals worldwide, including IDFA and Full Frame Film Festival.

Just Married!

CCT welcomes wedding photos where at least one member of the couple is a College alum. Please submit your high-resolution photo, and caption information, on our photo webform: **college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo**. Congratulations!



BRYAN R. CLARK

1. Stephanie Foster '12 and Michael Loya '12 (center) were married in Seville, Spain, on Sept. 5, joined by friends (left to right) Salma Echahly BC'15, Lexi Nichols '13, Megan Carley Pope '12, Carson Schuster '12, Negin Navab '12, Taylor Gattinella '12, Amanda Goodhart Popeck '12, Nicole Kamra '12, Dana Kim BC'13, Sarah Avallone Powers '12, Kevin Powers '13, Alex Smith '12, Brendan O'Hearn '13, Quentin Grigsby '13, Alex Powell '12, Brian Barwick '12, Ben Popeck '12, Neil Schuster '12 and Nick Scott '13.

2. David Fritz and Avery Fritz '14 (née Burrell), third and fourth from left, were married on Oct. 14, 2023, in the bride's hometown of Vicksburg, Miss. Celebrating with them (left to right) were Robert Gaffey, Rebecca Fattell '14, Sarita Patankar '14, Ryan Kieras, Ram Narayan SEAS'14, Nim Gumaste '14 and Sophia Kitlinski '14.

3. Robert J. Durham Jr. '92 (left) and Victor A. Flores '92, who have been together for three decades, were married on Feb. 14 at San Francisco City Hall.

4. Nathaniel Howland '09 married Luisa Pinzón at the White Plains Courthouse on Dec. 3.

Vicky has been working on the film for nine years and is thrilled to finally share it with everyone. She lives in Berlin with her partner.

And, as a final note, this will be the last Class Notes column filed by your correspondents. It has been a lovely decade hearing from you all on the exciting things going on in your lives.

2012

Pat Blute
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Happy Spring, Columbia Lions! Looking back about 100 years ago at the University, it was prime time for Rodgers and Hammerstein's 1923 Varsity Show production, *Half Moon Inn*. By 1925, the revival cemented their collaborations, leading to Broadway classics that started at Columbia.

Fast forward to today, and our CC'12 crew is having an impact across the globe.

Sunshine is a welcome change for **Nettra Pan**, who moved to London last year (and I had the pleasure of seeing this spring; see the nearby photo!) with her husband, Luc, whom she met while studying abroad in Paris! Nettra shares: "It's been wonderful connecting with the local Columbia community and old friends visiting this spring! We're focusing on the small joys — like how necessary and uplifting sharing a warm beverage with a friend can be."

Vasilis Hristidis GS'16 is finishing up as chief resident for the Department of Psychiatry at WashU and has accepted an assistant professor position! He's leading some groundbreaking research on treatment-resistant depression, including a study on nitrous oxide for depression and a major vagal nerve stimulation clinical trial.

Congratulations, Dr. Hristidis, on pushing the frontier and driving forward major impact!

A truly incredible year for **Elizabeth Kipp-Giusti** (whom I also had the pleasure of seeing quite a bit in New York last fall)! After moving into a new home, she married her longtime partner, Alexander Dabertin '15, SOA'19, in June at Belvedere Castle in Central Park, surrounded by Columbia friends. Elizabeth continues her work at The Public Theater, producing new plays and musicals for Broadway and Off-Broadway. She's also playing a key role in the renovation of The Delacorte Theater — home of the free "Shakespeare in the Park," now open for the summer! [Editor's note: See a photo of Kipp-Giusti near the CC'76 column.]

Chuck Roberts and Tyler Badgley welcomed son Broderick Edward Badgley Roberts in December 2024. All involved are happy and healthy. Just one day and a redeye flight from San Diego earlier, Chuck also became a national referee with U.S. Soccer. No sleep, just hustle!

LUC JODET

Nettra Pan '12 (left) and Pat Blute '12 shared "just joy at seeing a familiar face again!" in Shoreditch, London, on March 20.

And congratulations to newlyweds **Stephanie Foster** and **Michael Loya,** who celebrated their wedding with a stunning three-day celebration in Seville, Spain, in September 2024. Before jetting off to Spain, the couple tied the knot in a small civil ceremony in NYC. Afterward, with the help of Columbia staff, they made a sentimental visit to campus for wedding photos in their most-loved spots — where Deantini even made a surprise appearance!

We've got an amazing shot from Seville featuring our incredible alums. Go to "Just Married!" to see it!

As always, thank you and keep the updates coming. As there is much to hope for in the world, this is a column meant to celebrate our time together, and to share our hopes and our dreams for a brighter future.

2013

Tala Akhavan
talaakhavan@gmail.com

I hope everyone is enjoying the warmer weather! A couple of exciting updates from our class:

Ryan Mandelbaum has come a long way from writing longform emails and they are excited to announce that they have published their first book, *Wild NYC: Experience the Amazing Nature in and around New York City,* part natural history, part field guide and part trip planner, showing readers how to experience our city as a habitat for plants and animals. You can find Ryan sharing this knowledge on their tours hosted by NYC Bird Alliance.

In January, at the top of dormant volcano Cerro Toco in the Atacama Desert and 18,386 feet above sea level, **Andrea Garcia-Vargas** proposed to her partner, Connor Foster (Cornell '15), and he said yes!

Congratulations, Andrea!

Silvia Park's speculative literary novel, *Luminous,* is set in a reunified Korea where robots are now seamlessly integrated into society and follows three estranged siblings who reunite through a police investigation.

John Kenney and his wife, Amanda, were excited to welcome their second daughter, Maeve Elizabeth, in March. They have been enjoying parental leave and looking forward to lots of walks through their Georgetown neighborhood!

Julia Monk is back in NYC after a decade away, as she started this past fall as an assistant professor of environmental studies at NYU. She is ecstatic to be back in the city and reconnect with old Columbia friends, almost all of whom are still (or again) in the city, as well.

Welcome back, Julia!

2014

Rebeccca Schechter Fattell
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Happy Summer, Class of 2014!

Avery Fritz (née Burrell) and her husband, David, were married on Oct. 14, 2023, in Avery's hometown of Vicksburg, Miss. Attending were **Rebecca Fattell, Sarita Patankar, Ram Narayan SEAS'14, Nim Gumaste** and **Sophia Kitlinski.** Go to "Just Married!" to see a photo.

Avery and David welcomed their son, Theodore, in February 2025.

As always, to submit for a future issue, please email me or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2015

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

No news to share this time! *CCT* still needs a class correspondent to oversee this column. If you are interested, please write to cct@columbia.edu with the subject line "CC'15 class correspondent." In the meantime, have a great rest of the summer, then please share what you did, and any other updates, with *CCT* and your classmates through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2016

Lily Liu-Krason
lliukrason@gmail.com

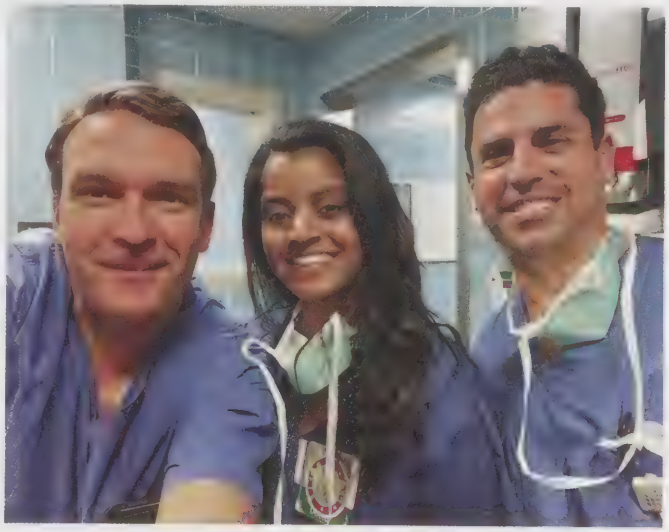
Hello 2016. Here are some updates from classmates. As always, please send me news! I've heard from many people that they connect or reconnect thanks to this li'l column, and have heard from many more that they're just happy to read about people.

From **Sonya Li:** "Hi 2016. I recently moved to Williamsburg, NYC, after four years in the Bay Area. After driving everywhere, it's a relief (for society) that I'm taking the subway again. Come over for dinner and let's catch up. It's good to be back (sonya.yan.li@gmail.com)!"

From **Angel Wang:** "Hiya Lions. I moved to London this year after finishing an M.B.A. and then working in startups for two years in San Francisco. Would love to catch up with anyone in the United Kingdom or Europe at large. HMU on LinkedIn."

While operating during an eight-hour reconstructive case together last summer at Lenox Hill Hospital in Manhattan, Dr. **Sneha Subramaniam,** Dr. Oren Lerman '97 and Dr. Wojciech Dec '03 realized they share the same undergraduate institution. Lerman and Dec are attending plastic surgery physicians and microsurgeons. Sneha will finish her general surgery residency this upcoming year and will continue her plastic and reconstructive surgery training in Boston. See the nearby photo!

Richin Kabra and Larissa Mark '18 are thrilled to announce their Nov. 16 engagement! After countless moving boxes and adventures during graduate school and careers



While operating together during an eight-hour reconstructive case last summer at Lenox Hill Hospital in NYC, Dr. Sneha Subramaniam '16 (center), Dr. Wojciech Dec '03 (left) and Dr. Oren Lerman '97 realized they are all Columbia College alumni; they snapped a photo together on Nov. 23.

BESTE KAÇMAZ

Richin Kabra '16 and Larissa Mark '18 at their Nov. 16 engagement in Cappadocia, Turkey.

across the United Kingdom, Washington D.C., and the Netherlands, they are happy to call New York City home again. The couple met on campus in spring 2016 and treasure their Columbia memories — afternoons on Low Beach, games at Hex & Co. and treks beyond 110th Street for theater and bagels (farewell, Absolute Bagels!). See the nearby photo!

Iman Fears SOA'19 shares, "Hey, Class of 2016! The young adult historical novel I started working on at Columbia, *The Scorpion Queen,* was published in February. It's a dark fantasy inspired by a Malian fairy tale about a princess whose suitors are challenged to gruesome trials. If you read it, I'd love to hear your thoughts! You can find me on Instagram at @minafears. Hope to see you soon!"

2017

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

CCT thanks **Carl Yin** for his eight years of service as class correspondent. If you are interested in taking on this role, please write to cct@columbia.edu with the subject line "CC'17 class correspondent." In the meantime, please send your updates to *CCT* through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Enjoy the summer!

2018

Alexander Birkel
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[Editor's note: *CCT* thanks **Maleeha Chida** for her seven years of service as class correspondent.]

No news this time! Please send me an update for a future issue that I can share with classmates.

2019

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

CCT thanks **TJ Aspen Givens** and **Emily Gruber** for their six years of service as class correspondents. They add, "We look forward to being in touch soon, and we send our best wishes to all." If you are interested in taking on the class correspondent role, please write to cct@columbia.edu with the subject line "CC'19 class correspondent." In the meantime, please send your updates to *CCT* through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

One note this time, from **Gabriel Slaughter:** "I happily write to let you know that I finished my law degree in May and accepted a position with the nonprofit Save the Sound, where I will practice environmental law, in particular Clean Water Act litigation, clean energy advocacy before Connecticut's public utility commission and conservation litigation.

"I am also writing to express my frustration and anger with the University's recent conduct regarding Mahmoud Khalil SIPA'24 and pro-Palestinian student protests generally. [In my view,] the University is failing to uphold basic and fundamental norms of academic freedom."

2020

Stephen Cone and Kyra Ann Dawkins
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Nora May McSorley accepted the position of director of middle school at Delbarton School in Morristown, N.J., after obtaining a master's in clinical and forensic psychology.

Thank you to Nora for writing in, and we look forward to hearing from more of you. Please send your news and updates so we can share them with classmates!

2021

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

CCT thanks **Mario A. Garcia Jr.** for his service as class correspondent. If you are interested in taking on this role, please write to cct@columbia.edu with the subject line "CC'21 class correspondent." In the meantime, please send your updates to *CCT* through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2022

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

CCT thanks **Mark Anthony Torres** for his service as class correspondent. If you are interested in taking on this role, please write to cct@columbia.edu with the subject line "CC'22 class correspondent." In the meantime, please send your updates to *CCT* through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2023

Ashley Yu
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Hey, Class of 2023! It is hard to believe it has been two-plus years since graduation! I hope everyone has found a way to ease into post-grad life, whether that is through a job, graduate school or other pursuits! My hope is for our class to stay connected as young alumni! A great way to do this is by sharing a Class Note to update classmates on new adventures in your life. Please reach out to me with your news via email or through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

Aja Saldaña reflects on career growth since graduation. He writes, "I am midway through my second year as a McKinsey business analyst and had the opportunity to contribute to knowledge efforts in the healthcare workforce capacity, GenAI and more."

Aja moved to his second post-graduate home with his partner, who is finishing the first year of a master's, and her cat, Chainsaw.

2024

Rebecca L. Smith
rls2223@columbia.edu

Hello, Class of 2024! Hard to believe that it's been more than a year since we graduated.

Kaylee Fisher writes, "I'm completing my first year of medical school at The George Washington School of Medicine & Health Sciences!"

Yuting Huang writes, "I am pursuing a Ph.D. at Weill Cornell and I have met several Columbia alumni at my current institution. So glad I am staying in NYC and am still able to connect with classmates and get to know more people in the broader Columbia community!"

Looking forward to hearing more updates from our class!

obituaries

Columbia College Today has learned of the deaths of the following alumni. To submit an obituary for a Columbia College graduate, please use the online webform college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_obituary.

1942 **Melvin Hershkowitz,** physician, Hyattsville, Md., on Feb. 16, 2025.

1948 **Durham Caldwell,** broadcast and print journalist, Holyoke, Mass., on Sept. 20, 2024.*

Robert Silbert, psychiatrist, New York City, on Feb. 15, 2025.*

1951 **James S. Blundell Jr.,** New York City, on Jan. 19, 2025.*

David Kettler, research professor, Rhinebeck, N.Y., on Oct. 6, 2024.*

1952 **Max Frankel,** journalist, New York City, on March 23, 2025.**

Robert S. Reiss, entrepreneur, Delray Beach, Fla., on Dec. 18, 2024.*

1953 **Robert S. Walzer,** physician and attorney, New York City, on April 25, 2025.

1954 **Avrom H. Fleishman,** English professor, Portland, Maine, on Feb. 9, 2025.*

Bruce A. King, critic and professor, Paris, on Dec. 2, 2024.*

1955 **Jeffrey H. Broido,** nuclear engineer, La Jolla, Calif., on June 21, 2024.*

Francis J. Miller, Eugene, Ore., on April 30, 2024.

Daniel North, writer and editor, Jersey City, N.J., on July 11, 2024.*

Beryl Nusbaum, attorney, Rochester, N.Y., on Nov. 16, 2024.*

Howard M. Sussman, gastroenterologist, Houston, on April 13, 2024.*

Henry D. "Hank" Wolf, engineer, Falls Church, Va., on Nov. 14, 2024.*

1956 **Alvin F. Poussaint,** psychiatrist and psychiatry professor, Chestnut Hill, Mass., on Feb. 24, 2025.**

1957 **Felix A. Conte,** pediatric endocrinologist and professor, San Rafael, Calif., on Dec. 4, 2024.*

Richard A. Lowery, civil engineer, Annapolis, Md., on Feb. 16, 2025.*

1959 **Jerry Wacks,** psychiatrist, Lexington, Mass., on Jan. 31, 2025.*

1960 **Alvin I. Goldman,** professor emeritus of philosophy and cognitive science, Berkeley, Calif., on Aug. 4, 2024.*

Avram R. Kraft, surgeon, Boca Raton, Fla., on July 18, 2023.*

1961 **Edvins Auzenbergs,** business executive, Lakewood, Ohio, on Nov. 1, 2024.*

1962 **Robert E. Sobel,** chemist, Hendersonville, Tenn., on Dec. 7, 2024.*

Michael A. Stone, businessman, Boynton Beach, Fla., on Jan. 7, 2025.*

1963 **Daniel E. Subotnik,** attorney and law professor, Huntington Station, N.Y., on March 8, 2024.*

1964 **Holbrook Williams,** broadcaster, North Brooklin, Maine, on Feb. 2, 2025.*

1965 **Stanford N. Sesser,** journalist, New York City, on Jan. 27, 2025.*

1966 **Harry M. Kresky,** civil rights attorney, Shushan, N.Y., on March 11, 2025.*

Robert E. Meyerson, banker, Atwater, Minn., on March 5, 2025.*

John R. "Rand" Sealey, wine merchant and writer, Walla Walla, Wash., on Oct. 17, 2023.*

1967 **Carlton Carl,** journalist, lobbyist, and small-town real estate owner and developer, Martindale, Texas, on March 25, 2025.

Roy A. Nierenberg, software developer, El Cerrito, Calif., on Jan. 24, 2025.*

1969 **Simos C. Dimas,** attorney, Bronxville, N.Y., on Nov. 29, 2024.*

Jeffrey Bruce Klein, journalist, Menlo Park, Calif., on March 13, 2025.**

Stephan P. Salisbury, journalist, Swarthmore, Pa., on July 20, 2024.*

Bennett C. Sandick, activist, attorney and small-business owner, Mesquite, Nev., on Jan. 12, 2025.

Alan B. Senauke, abbot, Berkeley, Calif., on Dec. 22, 2024.*

1970 **Scott J. Simon,** musician, Ojai, Calif., on Sept. 5, 2024.**

Robert L. Zussman, sociologist, Northampton, Mass., on Nov. 27, 2024.*

1971 **John P. Icenogle,** attorney and judge, Kearney, Neb., on April 12, 2024.*

1975 **Isidore J. "Dore" Gold,** diplomat and political scientist, Jerusalem, on March 3, 2025.**

1980 **Walter F. McDonough,** attorney, West Roxbury, Mass., on Dec. 14, 2024.*

1981 **William P. "Bill/Nick" Nickerson Jr.,** finance manager, West Roxbury, Mass., on Jan. 24, 2025.*

1982 **William F. Megevick Jr.,** finance attorney and theater producer, New York City, on Jan. 6, 2025.*

1983 **Kevin H. Cronin,** Cleveland, on March 6, 2025.

1985 **John C. Chong,** New York City, on Jan. 1, 2025.*

1999 **Allan K. Ng,** marketer, San Francisco, on Jan. 17, 2025.*

2007 **Havilah A. Giannetta,** writer, Palmyra, Va., on Nov. 10, 2024.*

* Full obituary online at college.columbia.edu/cct. ** Featured obituary online at college.columbia.edu/cct.

read *it* online

COURTESY IMO IMEH '02

IMO IMEH '02'S ART TELLS BIG STORIES

In his senior year at the College, **Imo Imeh '02** was at a career crossroads. He'd been making art since childhood and had loved all the coursework in his art history major, but his traditional Nigerian parents had different expectations for their son's future.

After being weeded out of pre-med studies, Imeh began preparing an application to the Law School. With no experience whatsoever in law, he thought a good first step would be to go into the building, breathe deeply and try to get a feel for the space.

"I went in, and all I could think was: 'So many empty white walls! Could no one throw up a painting in here?!' he recalls with a laugh. "I knew then I wasn't going to be applying to law school, that I was going to have to tell my very Nigerian parents that I was going to be an artist."

Imeh has since created paintings that hang on many walls. His recent projects include *Monuments to Our Skies*, a two-part series that considers Black identity within the frameworks of science, faith and divinity, now on view at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C. And in March 2024, his stunning portrait of Frederick Douglass was unveiled in the historic Mechanics Hall in Worcester, Mass., one of only three paintings in the hall's 167-year history to feature a Black American.

Get the story at **college.columbia.edu/cct**

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